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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, June 12, 2014



House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., leaves a news conference after telling reporters he intends to resign his leadership post at the end of July following his defeat in the Virginia primary Tuesday, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, June 11, 2014. Cantor lost to tea party challenger David Brat, who campaigned in opposition of loosening immigration laws.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Cantor loss spells changes for Republicans

DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent
WASHINGTON (AP)—House Majority Leader Eric Cantor announced Wednesday that he will resign his leader-

ship post at the end of next month, clearing the way for a potentially disruptive Republican shake-up just before midterm elections with control of Congress at

stake. Cantor informed fellow Republicans of his intentions at an emotional closed-door meeting. He then made his public

announcement at a news conference where he appeared upbeat, all less than 24 hours after losing a primary election to David Brat, a little-known and un-

derfunded rival backed by the ultraconservative tea party wing of the Republican party.

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Hagel defends Bergdahl trade

**LOLITA C. BALDOR
BRADLEY KLAPPER
Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel delivered an aggressive defense Wednesday of the secret prisoner exchange of five Taliban detainees for a U.S. soldier, telling Congress that the risks were too great and the situation too uncertain for the administration to tell lawmakers about the plan. In a nearly five-hour congressional hearing that was at times contentious, House members accused Hagel

advice it gave the White House.

The first Obama administration official to testify about the prisoner swap, Hagel acknowledged up front that the matter could have been handled better. But he offered no apology for keeping Congress in the dark, insisting that Qatari officials negotiating the swap between the U.S. and the Taliban made it clear that "time was not on our side."

U.S. officials said last week that intelligence suggested that the captors might

Bergdahl," Hagel told the House Armed Services Committee. "We were told by the Qataris that a leak, any kind of leak, would end the negotiation for Bergdahl's release."

Republicans and Democrats questioned the wisdom of releasing the five Taliban members, saying they could return to the battlefield. Administration officials have told Congress that four of the five Taliban officials will likely rejoin the fight.

Opening the hearing, Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon,



Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel testifies before the House Armed Services Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, June 11, 2014. Hagel appeared before the committee Wednesday to field questions about the swap of five Taliban detainees for U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, a deal he personally authorized.

and the White House of not trusting them enough to follow the law and fill them in on the decision to exchange Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl for five detainees at the U.S. facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

An equally combative Hagel said the deal provided "the best possibility that we had to get him out, and we were concerned we might lose it."

He said officials discussed the law requiring that Congress get a 30-day notice of detainee exchanges but said the Justice Department told them that in such extreme circumstances President Barack Obama had the constitutional authority to forego the notice. The Justice Department declined to comment on

have killed Bergdahl if word of the swap leaked out.

Calling the operation an "extraordinary situation," Hagel said there were concerns about Bergdahl's health and safety, the last-minute arrangements over where to pick up the soldier and persistent fears the Taliban may have been negotiating in bad faith. He said the deal only came together in the final 96 hours, and that the commandos sent to retrieve Bergdahl only knew the exact location an hour before the exchange.

"As the opportunity to obtain Sgt. Bergdahl's release became clear, we grew increasingly concerned that any delay or any leaks could derail a deal and further endanger Sergeant

the committee's Republican chairman, described the agreement with the Taliban as the "deeply troubling" result of unprecedented negotiations with terrorists."

Hagel called the former Taliban government officials "enemy belligerents" but said they hadn't been implicated in any attacks against the United States. He said Qatar, which has promised to keep the former Guantanamo detainees inside the country for a year, committed to sufficient security measures that led him to decide the risks weren't too great. He said details of those assurances are classified, but were being provided to the lawmakers. □

LATIN & CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Jamaica sells stake in bauxite operation

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaica is selling its 7 percent stake in a bauxite refinery operation, the island's energy minister announced this week. Energy Minister Phillip Paulwell told Parliament that the government will sell its \$11 million stake in the West Indies Alumina Company, referred to as Windalco. It is located in the central Jamaican parish of Manchester. The money will go to Windalco's parent company, Russian aluminum giant UC Rusal. The \$11 million sale will roughly halve a \$21.5 million debt to the Russian company. A debt of \$10.5 million remains. □

Indians, victims of war, exhumed in Peru

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Forensic teams have begun the long-delayed exhumation of members of an Amazon tribe that suffered devastating losses during Peru's 1980-2000 conflict with Shining Path rebels. The first body, unearthed over the weekend, wore the standard ochre robe of the Ashaninka, said Ivan Rivasplata, leader of the forensic anthropologists from the Peruvian prosecutor's office engaged in the mission with army escorts. He said in Lima that the team hopes to exhume about 130 bodies from five common graves in the Apurimac, Ene and Mantaro river valleys. □

New app program beginning in Caribbean

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — The World Bank and the Caribbean's biggest university this week launched a new partnership that's intended to encourage the regional development of mobile app entrepreneurs. The World Bank says the Caribbean Mobile Innovation Program will provide training and mentorships to developers from across the Caribbean who hope to build viable mobile app businesses. The effort was launched earlier this week at Jamaica's campus of the University of the West Indies and is a follow-up to earlier technology initiatives. People in six Caribbean countries will participate. □

Protesters attack journalists, smash glass

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Four journalists are recovering from injuries sustained when masked protesters attacked them after a window-smashing march through Mexico City. The protesters had joined a larger march honoring students killed in government repression of a 1971 demonstration. The youths broke windows at bus stops, stores and the ruling party headquarters this week before turning on journalists. The press freedom group Article 19 said four journalists were hurt, though none of the injuries was life-threatening. A freelance photographer for the AP, Marco Ugarte, suffered fractured facial bones. □

Fugitive from US captured in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — An alleged sex offender from Illinois has been arrested by a fugitive task force in Puerto Rico, U.S. authorities in the Caribbean territory said earlier this week. The U.S. Marshals Service said that fugitive Peter Sanchez was apprehended without incident at a restaurant in the western town of Aguadilla. The marshals led the Puerto Rico Violent Offenders Fugitive Task Force in making the arrest. Sanchez is charged with five counts of aggravated felony sexual assault in Winnebago County, Illinois. □

Bergdahl was let go from Coast Guard before joining Army

RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr.
ERIC SCHMITT
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Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl spent just short of a month in basic training with the U.S. Coast Guard in early 2006 before he was given an administrative discharge, military officials said Wednesday. The disclosure that Bergdahl failed to make it through the Coast Guard's boot camp may raise questions about whether he should have been allowed to enlist in the Army in 2008.

Bergdahl walked off his base in eastern Afghanistan on June 30, 2009, setting off a manhunt throughout Paktika province. He was captured by the Taliban and held for nearly five years before being handed over last month to American commandos in Afghanistan in exchange for the release of five Taliban detainees being held at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

Military officials on Wednesday did not provide any specific reason for why Bergdahl - who was a private first class when he was captured and was promoted while in captivity - left the Coast Guard boot camp.

CWO Barry Lane, a Coast Guard spokesman in Washington, said Bergdahl was 26 days into an eight-week boot camp at the Coast Guard's training center at Cape May, New Jersey, when he was discharged.

"That's not a long time in the Coast Guard," Lane said. Bergdahl served in the Coast Guard from Jan. 30, 2006, to Feb. 25, 2006. His discharge from the Coast Guard was first reported by The Washington Post, in an article that said that friends of the sergeant believed that he was discharged for psychological reasons.

Lane also said Bergdahl's discharge was labeled "uncharacterized," and as such was neither honorable nor dishonorable. He said that such discharges were typical for enlistees who did not complete boot camp. □

Poll:

What Americans Think on Immigration Issue

MEGAN THEE-BRENAN
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Rep. Eric Cantor's defeat has resulted in great speculation about the future of immigration politics.

Cantor's opponent, David Brat, repeatedly portrayed the House majority leader as supporting "amnesty." Cantor, R-Va., opposed a broad immigration overhaul but favored providing a path to legal status for young immigrants. Political analysts wonder whether Congress will be even less likely to pass an immigration bill in the wake of Brat's victory in Tuesday's primary. Which leads us to a brief overview of where the public stands on immigration:

- National polls consistently show that a majority of Americans support allowing immigrants in the U.S. illegally a chance to stay in the United States.

A CBS News poll in March, for instance, found that 56 percent of Americans thought that people living here without legal status should be allowed to stay and apply for citizenship. An additional 12 percent thought they should be allowed to stay as legal residents, if not citizens. Twenty-nine percent of the public supported deporting them.



Immigration reform supporters crash the primary-night party of House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., after he delivered a concession speech in Richmond, Va. Cantor lost in the GOP primary to tea party candidate Dave Brat, who rode a wave of conservative anger over immigration. Cantor's defeat almost certainly dooms the issue in the House.

(AP Photo/Steve Helber)

- While there is a partisan divide on several parts of the debate, majorities of Democrats, Republicans and independents agree that immigrants should be given a way to remain in the country legally.

Majorities of Democrats and independents support a path to citizenship. The number of Republicans who support citizenship is smaller, but a combination of those Republicans supporting citizenship and an-

other form of legal residency nonetheless makes up a majority of Republicans. In the CBS News poll, 44 percent of Republicans supported a path to citizenship, and an additional 10 percent said immigrants residing here illegally should be able to become legal residents. Still, a sizable 42 percent of Republicans supported deportation.

- Most Americans agree with Cantor's position on immigrants in the U.S. ille-

gally - that they should be allowed a path to stay legally.

A poll conducted last month by the Public Religion Research Institute found that 68 percent of the public favored giving legal status to immigrants who entered the country without authorization and were brought to the United States as children if they joined the military or went to college; 30 percent were opposed. □

US eyes new aid to Iraq to curb insurgent march

LARA JAKES
AP National Security Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

The United States is preparing to send new aid to Iraq to help slow a violent insurgent march that is threatening to take over the nation's north, officials said Wednesday. But the Obama administration offered only tepid support for Iraq's beleaguered prime minister, and U.S. lawmakers openly questioned whether he should remain in power.

With no obvious replacement for Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki — and no apparent intent on his part to step down — Washington is largely resigned to

continue working with his Shiite-led government that has targeted Sunni political opponents and, in turn, has inflamed sectarian tensions across Iraq.

"He's obviously not been a good prime minister," said Sen. Bob Corker, top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"He has not done a good job of reaching out to the Sunni population, which has caused them to be more receptive to al-Qaida efforts."

The panel's chairman, Sen. Bob Menendez, a Democrat, noted only lukewarm support for al-Maliki, both in Iraq and among U.S. of-

ficials. "I don't know whether or not he will actually be the prime minister again," Menendez said. "I guess by many accounts, he may very well ultimately put (together) the coalition necessary to do that."

Insurgents with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, which is inspired by al-Qaida, overran the northern Iraqi town of Tikrit on Wednesday, a day after seizing Mosul, the nation's second-largest city. The insurgent network has controlled the western city of Fallujah since the start of this year, and is fighting to take over Beiji, a key northern oil refinery town.

The rampage has raised

new doubts about al-Maliki's ability to protect Iraq in areas that were mostly calm when U.S. troops withdrew from the country less than three years ago. Since then, violence has roared back to Iraq, returning to levels comparable to the darkest days of sectarian fighting nearly a decade ago when the country teetered on the brink of civil war.

Al-Maliki and other Iraqi leaders have pleaded with the Obama administration for more than a year for additional help to combat the growing insurgency, which has been fueled by the unrelenting civil war in neighboring Syria. □

Cantor loss spells changes for Republicans

Continued from front

Lawmakers in both parties said Cantor's defeat and the prospect of a change within the Republican high command probably signal the demise of immigration legislation along the lines President Barack Obama is seeking and will also have a negative impact on the balance of his second-term agenda.

Even so, White House spokesman Josh Earnest disputed the notion that Cantor's surprise loss crushed the prospects of House Republican leaders putting an immigration bill on the floor this year. He noted that Sen. Lindsey Graham had been deeply involved in passing the Senate immigration bill and still defeated his primary opponents Tuesday night.

Cantor also has been deeply involved in Republican attempts to develop

an alternative to Obama's health care law that Republicans want to repeal.

Fellow Republicans set leadership elections for June 19, assuring that any campaigning would be brief. Even before Cantor's announcement, jockeying had broken out among fellow Republicans eager to move up the House leadership ladder — or establish a foothold on it.

Rep. Kevin McCarthy, the party whip and third-ranking leader, informed fellow Republicans he intended to run to succeed Cantor. Rep. Pete Sessions also made clear his interest, but fellow Texan Jeb Hensarling eyed a candidacy, as well, and the state's delegation was working to prevent any intramural competition.

Cantor, 51, sounded like anything but a man ready to retire from politics, saying he will serve out his



Following his defeat in the Virginia primary Tuesday, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., tells reporters he intends to resign his leadership post at the end of July, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, June 11, 2014. Cantor lost to tea party challenger David Brat, who campaigned in opposition of loosening immigration laws.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

term and be active this fall for Republican candidates. "What divides Republicans pales in comparison to what divides us as conser-

vatives from the left and their Democratic" allies, he said. Accused by tea party critics of being too accommodating on immigration

and other issues, and criticized by Democrats for being inflexible, Cantor said he had struck the right balance. □

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Brooklyn stabbing suspect is indicted on murder charges

STEPHANIE CLIFFORD

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NEW YORK - The man accused of the elevator stabbings that left a 6-year-boy dead and a 7-year-old girl critically wounded in Brooklyn was formally indicted Wednesday on charges of murder, attempted murder, assault and weapons possession.

The hearing for the suspect, Daniel St. Hubert, was largely a procedural affair, but St. Hubert unexpectedly caused a stir when he directly addressed the judge in Criminal Court in Brooklyn.

"Excuse me, Your Honor, is it all right if I have a moment with the court please, a short moment?" St. Hubert said. As several voices from around the court, including his lawyer's, said "no,"

St. Hubert, wearing orange scrubs with "D.O.C." on the back, was quickly escorted from the courtroom.

"I wasn't particularly expecting that, but I wasn't too surprised," his lawyer, Edward Friedman, said after the hearing. Meeting with his client beforehand, "I told him, 'Be quiet, don't say anything,'" Friedman said. "I have no idea what he was going to say."

St. Hubert, who had a history of psychiatric problems, had been released from prison in late May after serving five years on an attempted murder charge against his mother; he also faced assault charges after attacking correction officers while he was incarcerated. If convicted of the top count, St. Hubert faces a prison term of 25



Daniel St. Hubert is indicted on charges of murder and attempted murder, at Brooklyn Criminal Court in New York, June 11, 2014. St. Hubert briefly rattled the court by asking to address the court in what was meant to be a short appearance regarding accusations he fatally stabbed a six-year-old boy in an elevator.

(Joe Marino/Pool via The New York Times)

Authorities: Wealthy men drugged by NYC strippers

TOM HAYS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A crew of New York City women who worked as strippers scammed wealthy men by spiking their drinks with illegal synthetic drugs, then driving them to strip clubs that ran up tens of thousands of dollars on their credit cards while they were too dazed to stop it, authorities said Wednesday.

The four victims lost at least \$200,000. None was identified by name in court papers.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and New York Police Department investigators arrested four women — all described as professional strippers — earlier this week on charges including grand larceny, assault and forgery,

according to papers provided to The Associated Press.

One of the women was expected to appear in court in Manhattan on Wednesday following appearances Tuesday by the other three, including suspected ringleader Samantha Barbash.

Barbash's attorney, Stephen Murphy, said Wednesday that his client denies the charges. He declined to comment further. A strip club manager also was facing potential charges.

An undercover investigation found that the women joined in a scheme to rip off the men by drugging them with the stimulant methy-lone or other drugs after arranging to meet them at upscale bars in New York and Long Island, authorities said.

The impaired victims were driven to strip clubs, where they were charged for private rooms, expensive meals, drinks and other services, they said.

The clubs paid the women for the visits, but the establishments were not facing criminal charges, authorities said.

The men reported waking up in their cars or in hotel rooms with little or no memory of the encounters. Those who tried to dispute the strip club bills received texts from the strippers threatening to go public with their transgressions, authorities said. □

years to life.

St. Hubert is still being treated at Bellevue Hospital Center, Friedman said, and will be there until the Department of Correction thinks he is ready to be transferred to a general population jail, most likely

Rikers.

"I'm presuming that he's medicated but I don't know that for a fact," Friedman said.

St. Hubert's family has been in touch with him, Friedman said, and he believed that some family members had

visited him at Bellevue.

According to the indictment, St. Hubert entered the Boulevard Houses in East New York at 5:40 p.m. on June 1, along with the two children, Prince Joshua Avitto, 6, who was killed, and Mikayla Capers, 7. □



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US Financial Front:

Many seek new homes near cities but are priced out

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — City living has been a blessing for Tim Nelson.

The Phoenix lawyer moved downtown a few months ago into a new \$389,000 home with a warehouse-style floor plan, a Jacuzzi tub and kitchen counters made of Caesarstone quartz. His favorite coffee spot is three blocks away. When the Arizona Diamondbacks play on Friday nights, he can watch post-game fireworks from his deck.

"I like the views," said Nelson, 50. "My commute is almost nonexistent."

Nelson has plenty of company.

Americans increasingly say they prefer to live near the centers of cities and towns, where commutes are typically shorter and culture, restaurants and entertainment close by. It marks a shift away from the yearning for open suburban space that drove U.S. home construction for decades.

But it carries a costly trade-off: Land in many cities has surged in price. And fewer Americans can now afford newly built homes in the walkable neighborhoods they desire.

The average price of a newly built home nationwide has reached \$320,100 — a 20.5 percent jump since 2012 began. That puts a typical new home out of reach for two-thirds of Americans, according to government data.

Yet many builders have made a calculated bet: Better to sell fewer new homes at higher prices than build more and charge less. Their calculation is partly a consequence of the growing wealth gap in the

United States. Average inflation-adjusted income has declined 9 percent for the bottom 40 percent of households since 2007, while incomes for the top 5 percent exceed where they were when the recession began that year, according to the Census Bureau.

Buyers have historically paid about 15 percent more for a new home than

erage, construction firms need fewer workers. The economy remains 1.49 million construction jobs shy of its total in December 2007, when the Great Recession began.

After 60 years of migrating to car-dominated suburbs, polls show more Americans want out of long commutes in favor of neighborhoods where jobs and stores are nearby.

desire to live near town centers on costlier land could depress home ownership rates to as low as 60 percent, McIlwain estimates. That would be down from 65 percent today and 69 percent during the housing bubble.

About 40 percent of Americans still live in a suburb "where most people drive to most places," according to a new poll by the Ameri-

towns with attractive amenities soared, says Christopher Leinberger, a professor at George Washington University and an industry strategist.

Homebuilder Toll Brothers spent \$24 million in 2012 to buy two-thirds of an acre near Nationals Park in Washington. That's equal to roughly \$830 a square foot, compared with \$5 a square foot before the ballpark existed, Leinberger said.

At the Walnut Hill Townhomes in Chattanooga, prices start at \$610,000. The figure reflects a revival of that industrial city. A pedestrian bridge spans the river, carrying locals to gastropubs, gourmet tacos and a waterfront park.

Dale Mabee, who's building the homes, said his material and land costs meant prices had to be \$243 a square foot, nearly three times the average in the metro area.

"It's almost a necessity to build at a higher price point to make the numbers work," Mabee said.

Among the buyers was Spencer McCallie, a 77-year-old former school headmaster. McCallie initially retired to a lakeside cabin about 30 miles outside the city. But its quiet pleasures were undercut by long drives downtown for symphony concerts and Rotary Club meetings.

"We didn't want to have to come in 28 miles because we knew we'd have to come home late at night," McCallie said.

The shift in tastes is among factors that are eroding home affordability despite still-low mortgage rates. Among other factors: tighter lending rules and difficulty producing down payments.



Attorney Tim Nelson poses for photos in his new town home in Phoenix. Americans like Nelson increasingly say they prefer to live near the centers of cities and towns, where commutes tend to be easier and culture, restaurants and entertainment close by. It marks a pronounced shift away from the yearning for open suburban space that drove U.S. home construction for decades.

(AP Photo/Matt York)

for an existing one, a premium that's reached 40 percent today, according to the real estate data firm Zillow. An average new home costs about six times the median U.S. household income. Historically, Americans have bought homes worth about three times their income.

The high prices and sparse construction are no help for a still-subpar U.S. economy. With new-home sales well below their historical av-

erage, many face a tough choice: Keep renting. Pile up huge mortgage debt to buy a home near their job. Or buy a cheaper home that requires a lengthy commute.

"Middle-class Americans are (being) squeezed out," said John McIlwain, a senior fellow at the Urban Land Institute.

Low mortgage rates have eased some of the pain from rising prices. But the

can Planning Association, a trade group for community planners. But just 7 percent say they hope to stay in car-dominated neighborhoods. Those findings mesh with a March report on the preferences of millennials by Nielsen Holdings.

The construction business thrived for decades by bulldozing cheap farmland into suburban networks of streets and houses. But as farmland grew costlier, land prices in cities and

FCC Chief is said to plan action on Wi-Fi in schools

EDWARD WYATT

© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - Visiting a middle school in Oakland, California earlier this year, Tom Wheeler, the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, got a glimpse of just how badly U.S. schools need better high-speed Internet connections. At the Edna Brewer Middle

bound by rules governing the E-Rate fund, the program that subsidizes the installation of high-speed Internet connections at schools.

Current rules prioritize bringing connections to a school or library over improving networks inside a school.

Now, with nearly all schools having an Internet con-

White House announced the ConnectED initiative, which aims to connect 99

percent of the nation's 50 million schoolchildren with high-speed broadband

and wireless networks within five years - now, four years. □



Students learn the basics of computer programming at Strawberry Elementary School in Mill Valley, Calif. Since nearly all schools now have access to the Internet, the Federal Communications Commission is aiming to use both current money and additional reserves to improve education by purchasing Wi-Fi connections.

(Jason Henry/The New York Times)

School, students used tablet computers as part of their daily lessons. But to get online material through a Wi-Fi signal, some students had to move around the classroom and hold their tablets in the air. That experience is not unusual.

Though the FCC spends \$2.4 billion a year to provide schools and libraries with high-speed Internet connections, none of that has gone in recent years to pay for Wi-Fi connections - something that is often available free in coffee shops, hotels and parks. Wheeler is said to want to change that. According to FCC officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity, Wheeler is planning next week to offer his fellow commissioners a proposed regulatory change to promote Wi-Fi in schools. Wheeler's aim is to get the issue on the agenda for the FCC's July 11 meeting. Though equipping schools with Wi-Fi seems like an obvious step, the FCC is

nection, the FCC is aiming to move inside them as well, using both current money and additional reserves to pay for Wi-Fi connections.

"The nature of education connectivity has changed," Wheeler wrote in a recent blog post addressing the issue. "Earlier on, it was revolutionary to simply connect a computer lab. Later, computers made their way into the classroom but were relegated to a place along the back wall. Today we have the technology to expand to laptops or tablets on every student's desk."

But in the most recent funding year, "E-Rate provided zero dollars for Wi-Fi," he said. Still, Wheeler has made it a goal to put new equipment in place by the 2015 school year.

Last July, the FCC began a review and modernization of the E-Rate program, aiming to eliminate payments for outmoded uses like pagers and directory assistance. Last June, the



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US rule may alter cheese-aging process

**STEPHANIE STROM
KIM SEVERSON**
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A decision by the Food and Drug Administration to question the use of wooden planks to age some cheeses has produced a stink that rivals Limburger, prompting an uproar among artisanal cheesemakers and consumers who fear they might lose access to products like obscure blue cheeses from Vermont and imported Parmigiano-Reggiano. The agency recently in-

of the process. It aids in the control of moisture that helps form rinds on big wheels of English cheddar and small, delicate washed-rind cheeses. It also provides an amenable surface for the microbes that add flavor and character to cheese. But the wrong bacteria can sicken consumers, which is what the FDA was trying to control with its initial decision. Social media blew up in the last few days as cheesemakers from California to

can Cheese Society, an organization that represents the nation's farmstead and artisanal cheesemakers. In Wisconsin alone, more than 33 million pounds of cheese - of the 2.7 billion pounds produced in the state - is sitting on wooden shelving, she said. "Wood is a perfectly safe surface," she said. The FDA, however, says wood could be a potentially hazardous surface and recently cracked down on one small cheesemaker in New York,



C-Local, a sheep's milk cheese washed with Brooklyn Brewery's Local 2 ale, at Murray's Cheese, at Grand Central Market in New York. A decision by the FDA to question the use of wooden planks to age some cheeses has produced a stink through the industry that rivals Limburger itself.
(Tony Cenicola/The New York Times)

terpreted a decades-old regulation requiring that cheesemaking equipment be designed and constructed of material that is "adequately cleanable" in ways that made it appear that wood, which has been used for centuries to help age cheese, was no longer sanitary enough. "The porous nature of wood enables it to absorb and retain bacteria, therefore bacteria generally colonize not only the surface but also the inside layers of wood," Monica Metz, chief of the dairy and egg branch of the Office of Food Safety, wrote in a letter to the New York state Agriculture Department at the beginning of this year. For some styles of cheese, wood is an essential part

Vermont took to the Internet. The hashtag #saveourcheese surfaced on Twitter. Chefs and cheese lovers took to Facebook and blogs to rebut the notion that wood was harmful. Tuesday evening, the agency seemed to backtrack, saying that it planned to work with artisanal cheesemakers "to determine whether certain types of cheeses can safely be made by aging them on wooden shelving." To take away wood as part of the cheesemaking process would mean wholesale change for more than a third of the cheesemakers in America and could have implications for imported cheese, about half of which is aged on wood, said Nora Weiser, the executive director of the Ameri-

which prompted state officials to seek clarification from the agency. The issue began during an FDA inspection in 2012, when the Finger Lakes Farmstead Cheese Co. in Trumansburg, New York, was barred from making cheese after *Listeria monocytogenes*, a type of bacteria that can cause fatal illnesses, was found on one of the wooden boards on which cheese was aged, as well as on other surfaces. Vince Razonale of Jasper Hill in Greensboro, Vermont, where a series of aging caves are lined with wooden shelving that hold prizewinning cheeses, said, "We're feeling really nervous about this whole situation. Like a lot of other cheesemakers. □

Canadian whisky makers raising the bar on spirits

MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press

The brown spirits revolution has spread to the Great White North. As in the United States, where premium bourbons and other high-end whiskies have been making a splash, Canadian producers are raising the bar with new — and better — offerings.

"The distillers have really upped their game in Canada," says Davin de Kergommeaux, author of "Canadian Whisky: The Portable Expert."

Canadian whisky's popularity in the U.S. dates to the Civil War, which disrupted U.S. distilling, says De Kergommeaux. There's long been a myth that Prohibition was a boost for Canadian whisky, too, but in fact that was a difficult period and several Canadian distilleries went bankrupt thanks to losing their U.S. market.

In recent decades, Canadian whisky has been a steady seller in the U.S., though it dipped some a few years ago. The downward trend reversed in 2013 when sales were up nearly 3 percent by volume over the year before, according to the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States. Significantly, the increase in revenue was even higher, at just over 6 percent, indicating that people have been willing to shell out more for premium Canadian whiskies.

At its best, Canadian whisky has a smooth quality that sets it apart. On the other hand, the country also has traditionally produced a lot of product that's been considered more of a mixer than a sipper. That's changing. Canadian whisky is produced differently from U.S. whiskies; the various grains usually are distilled separately, i.e. individual barrels of rye, barley and corn liquor, and then are blended together before bottling. In U.S. whiskey,

grains are mixed together before distillation and aged as one spirit.

The Canadian approach makes a master blender like Crown Royal's Andrew MacKay key to a brand's success, and he aims to keep a steady hand.

"If we have a motto for our department, it's keep it consistent over time," says MacKay, whose most recent creation is the Crown Royal Monarch 75th Anniversary Blend, which marks the three-quarters of a century since the brand was founded.

Crown Royal comes by its name — not to mention its traditional packaging of a purple drawstring bag — because it was created especially for the visit of the king and queen of England to Canada in 1939. One hundred cases were made, with 10 going on the train carrying the royal couple, and the blend proved so popular that a brand was born.

The new limited-edition — and incredibly smooth — Monarch whisky was created by MacKay from the brand's stock and includes a special whisky from the historic Coffey rye still in Manitoba, Canada.

"It's a tricky category to really nail down," says Andrew Abrahamson, manager of Seven Grand, a high-volume whiskey bar in Los Angeles. "The more I've learned about Canadian whisky what I do really appreciate about it is the palate they give their master blender. The blender is really coming from the artistic side."

Looking to try some of Canada's finer offerings? Among Abrahamson's picks for great Canadian whiskies include Caribou Crossing, a single barrel whiskey, Forty Creek and Pike Creek.

De Kergommeaux also lists Lot No. 40 and Collingwood among his favorites and tags Black Velvet 8-year-old as a great value. □



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China rounds up dozens in fringe sect crackdown

ANDREW JACOBS

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BEIJING - Chinese authorities said they had rounded up hundreds of people belonging to two "evil cults" in a crackdown prompted by the murder of a woman at a McDonald's in Shandong province last month that horrified the nation and was attributed to adherents of a fringe religious group.

In an act of brutality captured by a patron's cell-phone camera and widely shared on the Internet, several members of the outlawed Church of Almighty God bludgeoned and kicked to death the woman, Wu Shuoyan, after she refused to give her phone number during a proselytizing drive in the eastern province.

Six church members, four from the same family, were captured by the police at the scene.

Xinhua, the state-run news agency, did not indicate when the latest spate of arrests took place, but it said Tuesday that 59 of those detained had already been handed prison terms of up to four years for "using a cult to undermine enforcement of the law." The arrests took place in two northern provinces, Liaoning and Ningxia.

In addition to adherents of the Church of Almighty God, Xinhua said those arrested included members of another Christian group known as Disciples Sect.

The campaign against Almighty God and other banned groups is the latest effort by the Communist Party to rein in unorthodox Christian sects it says are coercive and dangerous.

Al-Qaida breakaway pursuing an Islamic state

RYAN LUCAS
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — An al-Qaida splinter group that has seized a huge chunk of northern Iraq commands as many as 10,000 fighters and has steadily been consolidating its hold on much of northeastern Syria across the border.

Its pursuit of an Islamic state that would straddle the two countries has thrown it into bloody conflict with both governments, Kurdish militias and Syrian rebels of all stripes. The group, known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, has employed a calculated strategy to achieve its aims, using everything from beheadings to terrify opponents to ice cream socials for children to curry favor with local populations under its control.

But it is the group's military prowess that has brought under its sway a swath of territory that stretches from the Syrian-Turkish frontier in the north down the Euphrates River all the way to the Iraqi city of Fallujah just 65 kilometers (40 miles) west of Baghdad.

This week, the group's fighters, many of them in fast-moving pickup trucks mounted with machine guns, captured Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul, before barreling south to take the city of Tikrit — two urban centers in the heartland of northern Iraq's oil industry. The Islamic State is the latest and most powerful incarnation of what began as an al-Qaida affiliate in Iraq following the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

American forces spent years and enormous resources to bring the group largely to heel before U.S. troops pulled out of the country in December of 2011.

Since then, the region has been convulsed in political turmoil and sectarian hatreds. The Islamic State has seized on those Sunni-Shiite tensions to help whip up its Sunni extremist followers.

The group is led by an ambitious Iraqi militant known by his nom de guerre of

later released by the Nusra Front's commander.

In the spring of 2013, al-Baghdadi's fighters moved from Iraq into northern and eastern Syria.

He proclaimed that his group would lead the jihadi cause in both countries. Al-Baghdadi reportedly

to a region stretching from southern Turkey to Egypt on the eastern Mediterranean. The group is also referred to sometimes as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

Eventually, the Islamic State's presence in Syria proved so destabilizing that it fell out with its sister group,



Militias of the al-Qaida breakaway group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) deploy in an area in Tikrit, 80 miles (130 kilometers) north of Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, June 11, 2014. Al-Qaida-inspired militants seized effective control Wednesday of Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, expanding their offensive closer to the Iraqi capital as soldiers and security forces abandoned their posts following clashes with the insurgents.

(AP Photo)

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi with a \$10 million U.S. bounty on his head. After taking the reins in 2010, al-Baghdadi successfully transformed what had been an umbrella organization focused mainly on Iraq into a transnational military force.

The Syrian uprising, which began in 2011 against President Bashar Assad, opened the door to his greater ambitions. Al-Baghdadi dispatched trusted militants to Syria to set up a group called the Nusra Front while he personally remained in Iraq, according to an audio recording

moved to Syria to manage affairs.

Initially, more moderate Syrian rebels welcomed the group's experienced fighters. But the Islamic State alienated many rebels and Syrian civilians alike with its brutality and attempts to impose its strict interpretation of Islam.

It also drew the ire of many opposition fighters by focusing not on the fight against Assad, but rather on restoring a medieval Islamic state, or caliphate, in Iraq and Greater Syria, also known as the Levant — traditional names that refer

the Nusra Front. Their mutual patron at the time, al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, formally disavowed the Islamic State in February.

At the same time, other Syrian rebel factions were waging an offensive against the extremist group. Activists say that fighting, which is still going on, has killed more than 6,000 people.

But al-Baghdadi's refusal to bow won him the loyalty of many of the most hard-line fighters in Syria, particularly foreigners, and his group has proven resilient. □

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Ukraine rejects Putin's offer of gas discounts

JOHN DAHLBURG
NATALIYA VASILYEVA
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia on Wednesday offered to restore the discounted gas price it granted Ukraine under the ousted pro-Russian president, but Ukraine demanded an even better deal and called for arbitration to settle the dispute. Speaking in Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Russia was offering the discount as a "partnership deal." Russia's energy minister, Alexander Novak, specified the price offered as \$385 per 1,000 cubic meters of gas. "We believe that our offer is more than in a partnership spirit, aimed to support the Ukrainian economy at a rather difficult time," Putin said in televised remarks. "But if our offers are rejected it means we will enter another stage. This is not our choice. We do not want it."

Russia and Ukraine have been locked for months in a dispute over the price of Russian gas supplies and Ukraine's debt for previous deliveries. Moscow has threatened to turn off the tap if Ukraine fails to settle the multibillion-dollar debt, but has repeatedly pushed back the deadline after Ukraine paid off part of the sum. European Union-brokered talks between the two countries in Brussels on Wednesday failed to reach a compromise over the price. The bruising gas dispute comes amid continuing fighting in eastern Ukraine, where government forces have battled pro-Russian rebels for two months. The insurgents have pushed for joining Russia following Moscow's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula in March, but Putin has ignored their appeal in an apparent bid to avoid another round of crippling



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a government meeting focused on economic and social issues in the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, June 11, 2014. Ukraine on Wednesday rejected Russia's offer of a discount for gas shipments, which President Vladimir Putin touted as a "partnership deal."

(AP Photo/Alexei Druzhinin)

Western sanctions. Putin also seemed eager to avoid cutting off gas to Ukraine, a move that would likely disrupt shipments to European customers via pipelines crossing Ukrainian territory. He emphasized Wednesday that the latest offer would restore the price

Ukraine had under pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich. In December, Russia offered Ukraine an even lower price of \$268 as it sought to give a financial lifeline to Yanukovich, who was facing massive protests triggered by his decision to ditch a pact with the Eu-

ropean Union and opt for closer ties with Moscow. After Yanukovich was chased from power in February, Russia denounced his ouster as a "coup" and annulled all gas discounts, bringing the price back to \$485 per 1,000 cubic meters, in line with a 2009 contract. □

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OPEC keeps output target at 30M barrels

GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press
VIENNA (AP) — Facing greater oil demand but possessing limited ability to satisfy it, OPEC countries on Wednesday agreed to keep unchanged their output target of 30 million barrels a day. OPEC Secretary General Abdullah Al-Badry sought to cast the 12 countries' decision in a positive light. "We have a very comfortable price and the market is very stable," he told reporters after an OPEC meeting in Vienna. "So ev-

erybody's happy." In fact, OPEC's move was in part recognition by the oil cartel that most members will not be able to substantially increase output in the short-term, even if the world's appetite for crude increases as major economies expand and inventories shrink. The price of oil rose after the OPEC decision, with benchmark Brent North Sea crude for delivery in July climbing 45 cents to \$109.97 a barrel in London. The International Energy Agency, oil consultant to

major consuming countries, sees short-term demand rising. But many OPEC members are at their production capacity limits, and there are other problems. Iran says it can boost output to 4 million barrels a day within months — but remains constrained by sanctions imposed over its nuclear program. Domestic chaos in Libya has reduced its output to less than a quarter of the daily 800,000 barrels it would normally be able to produce. □

EU, Arab League team up against jihadi violence

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — European Union and Arab League countries agreed Wednesday to cooperate against the terror threat posed by home-grown radicals who return home from conflicts in the Middle East, following a deadly attack on a Jewish site in Belgium by a suspected jihadi.

Foreign ministers from the two regional bodies, meeting in Athens, said in a joint statement that their efforts would also address radicalization, recruitment and travel of foreign fighters — and “dealing with” those who return home.

Many European authorities fear that home-grown jihadists who travel to Syria and other conflict zones will come back with skills and the will to carry out terrorism.

Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders described returning foreign fighters as a “huge challenge.”

“They have become very dangerous for our societies,” he told reporters. “There is a risk of terrorist attack in our countries.”

Last month, a gunman killed four people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels.

A French suspect arrested over the attack had allegedly spent about a year in Syria after joining an extremist Islamic group fighting to topple President Bashar Assad.

Reynders said the shootings were “probably the first terrorist attack perpetrated by a foreign fighter” returning from Syria.

He said some 2,000 European citizens are believed to have joined extremist Muslim groups fighting the Syrian government.

“They have established networks and acquired experience in the use of weapons and explosive devices,” said Reynders. “It’s highly probable that the threat from those returnees will persist well beyond the end of the Syrian conflict.”

Brazil, other markets no longer ‘Fragile Five’

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Soccer fans will focus on Brazil and the start of the World Cup Thursday, but investors have been entranced by that nation’s stock market for months.

Brazil has company. From Sao Paulo to Mumbai, investors are regaining their faith in emerging markets this year.

It’s a big shift from 2013, when investment in those markets dried up because of worries about their slowing economic growth. It got so tough that five big developing markets — Brazil, South Africa, India, Indonesia and Turkey — were dubbed the “Fragile Five” by analysts at Morgan Stanley.

Now those countries are much more appealing to investors. Some have taken actions to strengthen their economies. Others have gone through political changes that have bol-

stered investor confidence. At the same time, slower growth in the U.S. has made investing overseas more alluring.

“These countries have done some homework to reduce their fragilities,” says

helped themselves a bit.”

The “Fragile Five” raised interest rates to draw investors’ cash back into their countries. India, for example, lifted its rate from 7.25 percent in September to 8 percent in March; Brazil

Higher interest rates are appealing to investors in the U.S., where the Federal Reserve has held its benchmark lending rate at close to zero for more than five years, and where bond yields remain low.

In India, the government has also raised duties on gold. The metal is India’s second-biggest import behind oil, and purchases have soared in recent years as incomes have risen there. The increased buying has sped up the flow of money out of the country, and weakened its currency. Politics are also playing a role.

Last month, Narendra Modi and the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party notched the most decisive Indian election victory in three decades. Modi marketed himself as a leader capable of shaking the nation from its economic slumber, and his clear win should allow him to reform the economy.



A man walks near a shopping center where a large Brazil flag and half of a soccer ball decorate the entrance in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Soccer fans will focus on Brazil and the start of the World Cup on Thursday, but investors have been pumped up about that nation’s stock market for months.

(AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

Jorge Mariscal, chief investment officer for emerging markets at UBS Wealth Management. “They have

hiked rates from 7.5 percent in May of last year to their current level of 11 percent.

EU investigates Apple, Starbucks, Fiat tax deals

TOBY STERLING

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The European Union’s antitrust regulator has launched an investigation into tax deals that Apple, Starbucks and Fiat struck with some European countries, the start of a wider push to keep multinationals from taking advantage of loopholes.

EU antitrust commissioner Joaquin Almunia said Wednesday a preliminary probe by his office has found the arrangements are improper, though the companies as well as the countries involved — Ireland, the Netherlands and Luxembourg — must be given a chance to respond.

“We have reason to believe at this stage that indeed in these specific cases the national authorities have (failed) to tax part of these multinationals’ profits,” Almunia said at a press conference in Brussels.

“When public budgets are tight and citizens are asked to make efforts to deal with

the consequences of the (financial) crisis, it cannot be accepted that large multinationals do not pay their fair share of taxes,” he said.

bourgeois as part of their strategy to minimize the taxes they pay.

Almunia said that while such agreements are permissible in theory, they



European Commissioner for competition Joaquin Almunia addresses the media at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, Wednesday, June 11, 2014. The European Union’s antitrust regulator said Wednesday it is launching an investigation into tax deals that Apple, Starbucks and Fiat struck with several European countries to see whether they violate competition law.

(AP Photo/Yves Logghe)

Apple has a deal with tax authorities in Ireland, Starbucks has one in the Netherlands and Fiat’s financing arm has one in Luxem-

would be improper if they give the companies an advantage over competitors who can’t benefit from the same deal.

Apple denied it had received any special treatment from the government of Ireland, where its European operations are based.

“Apple pays every euro of every tax that we owe,” said spokesman Alan Hely. Almunia said the three investigations announced Wednesday are part of a wider look into tax rules in various EU countries and “aggressive” tax planning by multinationals, which he said erodes countries’ tax bases. Asked whether Google might also be investigated, he said “this is the beginning, not the end of our work regarding how to enforce state aid rules (and) the way tax systems are being used.”

He said nine other countries are under preliminary investigation.

The countries named Wednesday have been criticized — Ireland for its low tax rates, the Netherlands and Luxembourg as homes for shell companies, and all three for a lack of transparency.

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Venezuela orders 3 arrested for alleged plot

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuela's attorney general ordered the arrests Wednesday of three government opponents, including a former presidential candidate and a former state oil company executive, who are wanted for questioning in an alleged plot to assassinate President Nicolas Maduro. In an interview with state television, Luisa Ortega Diaz said arrest orders were issued for former candidate and United Nations ambassador Diego Arria; Pedro Burelli, the former external director of Petro-

leos de Venezuela; and Ricardo Koesling, an attorney who has been a strong critic of the Maduro administration.

Ortega Diaz charged that groups are seeking to destabilize Venezuela's socialist government and have formed "violent political plans" against Maduro and other high-ranking officials. Authorities investigating the alleged plot had summoned the three men to appear as witnesses.

Because the three men being sought are believed to be out of Venezuela, authorities plan to ask Interpol to help capture them,

Ortega Diaz said.

Burelli, who has lived in the United States for several years, responded with his Twitter account, saying Ortega Diaz "is going down the wrong road." He told the newspaper El Universal earlier this week that he is working with his lawyer to prove that the accusations "are based on forged emails."

The attorney general's office opened its investigation in March after officials claimed a plot was being formed against the government. Caracas Mayor Jorge Rodriguez said last month that there was a



Lilian Tintori, center, wife of jailed opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, hold a sign that reads in Spanish, "bars do not silence the truth, release Leopoldo" during a rally in support of opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, Venezuela. Venezuela's attorney general ordered the arrests Wednesday of three government opponents, including a former presidential candidate and a former state oil company executive, who are wanted for questioning in an alleged plot to assassinate President Nicolas Maduro.

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

"complex plan" to topple and assassinate Maduro and other leaders. He accused a former opposition congresswoman, Maria

Corina Machado, of involvement and showed email messages that she allegedly shared with government opponents.

Supreme Court meets to discuss Argentina debt

MICHAEL WARREN
LUIS ANDRES HENAO
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court is meeting privately

Thursday to determine how to respond to Argentina's appeal of lower court decisions ordering it to repay more than \$1.3 billion in defaulted bonds.

U.S. lower courts have ordered Argentina to pay that amount plus interest to hedge funds led by billionaire Paul Singer's NML Capital Ltd., which snapped up the debt left unpaid when

the Argentine economy crashed in 2001-02 and went to court seeking payment in full.

Holders of 92 percent of the debt agreed long ago to accept bonds of lesser value in exchange for regular debt payments.

The justices aren't expected to announce their decision until next week. The court could ask for input from President Barack Obama's administration or send the case back to the New York appeals court for more information on how to interpret state law.

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RBC Royal Bank's Art Rules Aruba once again sold out!

ORANJESTAD - Although the program for RBC Royal Bank's Art Rules Aruba is full, teachers are opening up a few extra spots!!!

It is clearly a celebration at the Art Rules offices. Not just because the program celebrates its 5-year anniversary but also because registration has once again filled up the program to full capacity.

Although all the workshops are full, organizers and teachers are trying to accommodate the need and popularity of the program opening up a few spots in the disciplines, Culinary Arts, Creative Media, Fashion and DJ.

Organizers Ira and Ayra are excited that the program continues to be a success and happy to see the classes in all disciplines filling up.

Even the Bonus workshop Art Rules Junior for kids between 9-12 years, is an instant success as registrations filled up the class in no time.

Ayra Kip explains, "When we started, you could

clearly see a difference in popular disciplines. Dance and Theater were always full. Now, a few years later, all disciplines fill up the program. Art Rules has just become known to offer "contemporary" disciplines as we develop arts education that is directly related to the current interests of not only the younger generation but also the current industry".

Art Rules Aruba has definitely created a platform for non-traditional workshops, which has created a more dynamic offer in artistic development for young artistic teenagers on the island.

Workshops such as Culinary Arts and DJ are prime examples as they are fairly new as "arts workshops. When Art Rules began DJ was the newest new, yet now DJ has become irreplaceable in the program and even in the development of arts education on Aruba. Kids everywhere on the island want to become DJ's. We notice the same trend in Curaçao".



Looking at what is manageable for the teachers to handle, organizers have confirmed to be opening a few spots that will allow more kids to participate yet keeping in mind the standards of the program. "Art Rules is not about quantity, its about quality and therefore it is important that we look carefully at how many spots we can offer to allow students to get the individual training needed".

Classes will start on July 7th and take place at Cas Di Cultura, alongside the Davinci Academy whom are both prepping their spaces to facilitate the program.

Inviting all kids who love the arts and don't have any plans this summer. Don't miss the opportunity to follow workshops with the best international artists from around the world. Catch the Art Rules late registration via www.artrulesaruba.com/apply Kick off July 5th and classes start on July 7th till July 18th! Art Rules is also still looking for volunteers! Contact organizers via www.artrulesaruba.com and for updates follow Art Rules on social media [@artrulesaruba](http://www.facebook.com/artrulesaruba) @artrulesU on twitter and @artrulesflicks on instagram. □

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place for a perfect Italian pizza and after that you can take Daddy to Haagen Dazs for the best ever ice-cream. For Father's day our restaurants will be equipped with giant screens so that all Dads' can enjoy the different World Cup games. Don't forget to visit the place that sells promotional articles of all participating teams. Dad will love them. Buy your gifts at Paseo Herencia and bring your Dad here to enjoy his special day, the mall with the most entertainment and best atmosphere! To make it even easier you can stop by at the Parking Cashier to purchase your gift certificates.□



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Loyal visitors honored at the Aruba Marriott Resorts



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice couples whom are loyal and friendly Visitor of Aruba, at the Marriott Ocean Club, as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who

visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Jack and Debra Cottrell of Rock City Falls, New York, and Michael and Karen Hartman of Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Both couples are loyal guests of the Marriott Resorts and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restau-

rants, and Aruba feels like a second home, the employees at the Marriott are like a family to them and the Resort is their home away from home. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with friends from the Cottrell's couple and Ms. Keirsin Tjonpiangi representing the Aruba Marriott Resorts.



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World Cup tickets still available to some games

TALES AZZONI

AP Sports Writer

SAO PAULO (AP) — Tickets remain available for more than 15 World Cup matches just a day before the tournament opener, including some involving Germany, Italy and France. FIFA said it already sold more than 2.9 million tickets, but some were still on sale Wednesday.

There were plenty of tickets for matches between less prominent nations, including Bosnia-Iran and Greece-Ivory Coast, but it was also still possible to attend games with some of the more traditional teams. Fans could still get tickets on FIFA's website for matches such as Germany-Ghana, Switzerland-France and Italy-Uruguay. Only tickets for the highest-priced categories remained available for the better matches.

FIFA said a total of about 3.1 million tickets will be sold for the first World Cup in Brazil since 1950.

Thursday's opener between Brazil and Croatia at the troubled Itaquerao stadium in Sao Paulo sold out fast.

Of the 61,600 tickets available, only about 25,600 were sold to the general public. Nearly 10,000 additional tickets went to fans through promotional activities, but sponsors and local organizers got most of them.

Tickets for the July 13 final at the Maracana Stadium also were hard to get. A crowd of nearly 80,000 is expected at the decisive match.

HIGH HOPES

Sky the limit for U.S. at World Cup



United States' Geoff Cameron, right, and Omar Gonzalez, jump in unison as they workout at the Sao Paulo FC training center in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Tuesday, June 10, 2014. The U.S. will play in group G of the Brazil 2014 soccer World Cup.

Associated Press
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Adam Scott major threat everywhere but U.S. Open

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PINEHURST, North Carolina

(AP) — Adam Scott is trying to build a golf game that can travel to any golf course in the world for any tournament.

He can only hope it knows the way to Pinehurst No. 2. Or any U.S. Open course, for that matter.

Scott goes into this U.S. Open as one of the favorites because of his game, his form and his world ranking. The Australian didn't reach No. 1 in the world by accident. He has won six times around the world in the last two years and really thrived in the majors.

He won the Masters last year for his first major. He could easily have won the last two U.S. Opens. He was in the hunt at the U.S. PGA Championship last year at Oak Hill.

But the toughest test in golf?



Adam Scott, of Australia, speaks during a news conference for the U.S. Open golf tournament in Pinehurst, N.C., Wednesday, June 11, 2014. The tournament starts Thursday

Associated Press

Scott hasn't broken 70 at the U.S. Open in five years. He has missed the cut as often as he has made it — six times each. And in those six times he completed 72

holes, he has yet to finish under par. His best performance was a tie for 15th.

"I've talked to you all about 10 years of playing pretty average, by my own ex-

pectations in majors, and tried to improve that the last few years," Scott said on Wednesday. "And I've done a good job — but maybe not quite as good at the U.S. Open."

Scott is riding some reasonably good momentum. In his first week at No. 1 in the world, he won at Colonial. A week later, he was tied for the lead at the Memorial with seven holes to play until he put one tee shot in the water and took two shots to get out of a bunker.

Even so, he has no complaints with his game.

Scott is among the best drivers in golf and has been for the last two years. That would seem to suit him well at a U.S. Open, where accuracy is always a premium. His putting comes and goes — not even the long putter has cured that inconsistency. But the rest of his game is well-rounded.

"Maybe it's coincidence that I haven't had my best stuff at a U.S. Open," Scott said. "But I certainly feel like where my game is at now, and the past few years, I should be able to compete here. I'm trying to build a game that can play anywhere. So it's a good week for me to turn the corner and get in contention."

"This course sets up well to me."

He plays the opening two rounds in what has been described as the "Masters" grouping — with Bubba Watson and Charl Schwartzel. Scott said the only similarities between Augusta National and Pinehurst No. 2 are the options around the green — chipping, putting, pitching — and knowing where not to miss.

"Patience will be tested," he said. His patience already has been tested plenty in the U.S. Open. □

Olympic champ Felix wins 200m at Bislett Games

CIARAN FAHEY

Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) —

Allyson Felix showed she was getting back to her best by winning the 200 meters at the Bislett Games on Wednesday, while there was further American success in the long jump, triple jump and shot put.

Felix, the Olympic and three-time world champion, won in 22.73 seconds, ahead of Jodie Williams of Britain in 22.97, and Myriam Soumare of France in 22.98. Soumare earlier won the 100.

"I just wanted to work on some of the things I'd been doing in practice. The speed isn't quite there, but it's coming and hopefully the rest of the season will just keep progressing," said Felix, who endured an injury-plagued 2013.

"It's going to take me a little bit to get back to that top form but I'm just blessed to

be running on track. This is what I love so I'm having fun out there."

Murielle Ahoure of Ivory Coast, expected to be Felix's main challenger, could manage only fifth.

Tianna Bartoletta of the U.S. jumped a year-leading 7.02 meters to win the women's long jump, Will Claye led an American 1-2 in the men's triple jump, and Joe Kovacs won the shot put.

"I can tell you I would not have thought before the competition that 21.14 (meters) would be enough to win," Kovacs said.

Soumare produced a season-best 11.18 to win the 100 ahead of Americans Lekeisha Lawson and Muna Lee.

"Very good evening for me," Soumare said. "But I'm tired, believe me."

With Usain Bolt still working his way back from a foot injury, Trinidad and Tobago's Richard Thompson won the

men's 100 in a slow 10.02 seconds, ahead of Frenchman Jimmy Vicaut, and Britain's Adam Gemili. Former world champion Kim Collins was fourth.

Frenchman Pascal Marti-not-Lagarde ran a year-leading 13.12 to win the 110 hurdles ahead of Jamaican Andrew Riley and Russia's Sergey Shubenkov. Another Frenchman, Renaud Lavillenie, won the men's pole vault for his third win from three starts in Oslo. European 1,500 champion Henrik Ingebrigtsen set a Norwegian record in the Dream Mile but could finish only fourth, behind last year's winner Ayanleh Souleiman of Djibouti, who won in 3 minutes, 49.49 seconds. "A perfect race for me," Souleiman said.

Blanka Vlasic finished second in the high jump on her season debut with 1.98 meters. The Croatian performed a celebratory



Allyson Felix of the US celebrates winning the women's 200m during the IAAF Diamond League athletics competition at the Bislett Stadium in Oslo, Wednesday June 11, 2014.

Associated Press

dance on clearing it but the win went to Mariya Kuchina, who cleared it in fewer attempts — a personal best for the Russian.

Yenew Alamirew of Ethiopia won the 5,000, Jairus Kipchoge Birech of Kenya

the 3,000 steeplechase, Jamaica's Kaliese Spencer made it three in a row in the women's 400 hurdles, Kenya's Eunice Jepkoech Sum won the 800, and Jamaica's Novlene Williams-Mills the 400. □

NBA Finals

Spurs beat Heat to take 2-1 series lead

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — San Antonio made an NBA Finals-record 75.8 percent of their shots in the first half to set up a 111-92 victory over Miami on Tuesday to take a 2-1 series lead.

The Spurs made 19 of their first 21 shots and finished 25 of 33 in the first half, bettering the 75 percent shooting by Orlando against the Los Angeles Lakers in 2009.

"I don't think we'll ever shoot 76 percent in a half ever again," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

Unlike Game 1, when they pulled away in the final minutes, the Spurs were up comfortably before half-time in this one.

Returning to the arena where they were so close to winning a fifth championship last year, the Spurs came out playing like they were trying to build a lead that was impossible to blow.

They shot 13 of 15 and led 41-25 lead after the first quarter, then hit their first six shots of the second in front of a stunned crowd in Miami to go ahead 55-30.

Kawhi Leonard scored a career-high 29 points, sinking 10 of 13. Leonard scored only 18 points in the first two games, looking frustrated while getting into foul trouble trying to defend LeBron James in Game 2. But he had his outside shot working early and the effect on the Spurs' offense was obvious. Danny Green and Tony Parker each had 15 points for the Spurs.

James and Dwyane Wade had 22 points each for the Heat, who host Game 4 on Thursday.

Chris Bosh took only four points and scored nine points for the Heat, who for the second straight year will have to overcome a 2-1 finals deficit after being blown out in Game 3.

This rout came on their

home floor, where they had been 8-0 this postseason and had won a franchise-record 11 in a row since the Spurs beat them in Game 1 of last year's finals.

San Antonio inserted Boris Diaw into the lineup, countering Miami's small lineup and creating more ball movement. The game got off to a crisp start, with the Spurs making their first five shots and Miami opening 4 for 4.

James had 14 of their first 20 points, but even he could not keep up with the Spurs' pace.

Miami coach Erik Spoelstra

said San Antonio "came out at a different gear than what we were playing at, and it just seemed we were on our heels the most part of the first half."

Miami cut it 14 late in the first half, but the Spurs closed with a 9-2 burst to make it 71-50.

The Heat finally got into it in the third, running off 10 straight points to cut a 17-point deficit to 81-74 on a drive by Norris Cole, who had replaced an ineffective Mario Chalmers.

That was as close as Miami would get, as the Spurs pulled away in the fourth.



Miami Heat forward Rashard Lewis, left, and LeBron James, right, apply pressure on San Antonio Spurs forward Kawhi Leonard in the second half in Game 3 of the NBA basketball finals, Tuesday, June 10, 2014, in Miami. The Spurs won 111-92.

Associated Press

WNBA Capsules

Storm beat short-handed Sky 80-76

ROSEMONT, Illinois (AP) — Tanisha Wright scored 17 points to help the Seattle Storm beat the Chicago Sky, which was missing star Elena Delle Donne, 80-76 on Tuesday.

Delle Donne, who is second in the league in scoring at just over 22 points a game, was sidelined with a reported flare-up of Lyme Disease that plagued her in college. Forward Jessica Breland also sat out with a lower leg injury. Chicago is still without Sylvia Fowles, who is recovering from off-season hip surgery. She's expected back later this month.

Chicago (5-4) did get a strong effort from Epiphanny Prince, who was playing her second game of the season after sitting out the first seven games because of burnout. Prince had 18 points for the Sky, who have dropped three straight. Camille Little added 13 points and Sue Bird had 12 for the Storm (4-6).

SHOCK 72, LIBERTY 57

TULSA, Oklahoma (AP) — Skylar Diggins led Tulsa with 21 points as the Shock earned their second consecutive victory with a win over the Liberty.

Former Oklahoma player

Courtney Paris had 12 points and a career-best 16 rebounds for her fifth double-double of the season. Rookie Odyssey Sims added 10 points.

New York's Tina Charles led all scorers with 25 points, tying her season high on 11-of-19 shooting. She was the only Liberty player to score in double figures.

MERCURY 81, MYSTICS 66
WASHINGTON (AP) — Brittney Griner scored a season-high 20 points to help the Mercury to a victory over the Mystics. Diana Taurasi added 13 points and 10 assists for Phoenix (6-2), which has won two straight and is 2-1 so far on a five-game road trip. Candice Dupree scored 18 points and DeWanna Bonner added 14 for the Mercury.

Emma Meesseman scored a career-high 14 points for Washington (4-5), which has lost three straight and its last two at home. No other player scored in double figures for the Mystics, who are now just 2-4 at Verizon Center but 2-1 on the road.

Dupree and Griner each hit two baskets as the Mercury opened the second half on a 10-0 run to take a 47-37 lead.



Phoenix Mercury's Brittney Griner sticks her tongue out after scoring a basket against the Seattle Storm during the first half of a WNBA basketball game on Tuesday, June 3, 2014, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

Baseball Capsules

Wainwright wins ninth, Cards' SO run 3

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida

(AP) — Adam Wainwright became the NL's first nine-game winner and the St. Louis Cardinals beat Tampa Bay 1-0 on Tuesday night, the Rays' third straight shutout loss.

The Cardinals have three consecutive shutouts for the first time since April 2013. St. Louis, with 13 shutouts this season, was coming off 5-0 victories over Toronto on Saturday and Sunday.

Tampa Bay has been blanked an AL-leading 10 times. The Rays, who have lost 14 of 15, have not scored in 28 innings.

Wainwright (9-3) scattered seven hits over seven innings. Trevor Rosenthal got four outs, including a bases-loaded pop fly by Matt Joyce in the eighth, for his 17th save.

Matt Holliday put the Cardinals ahead with his fourth homer, a long drive to left-center in the sixth



St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Adam Wainwright throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Tuesday, June 10, 2014, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

off tough-luck loser Jake Odorizzi (2-7).

ANGELS 2, ATHLETICS 1, 14 INNINGS

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Collin Cowgill hit a two-out homer in the 14th inning and Los Angeles outlasted Oakland for its fifth consecutive victory.

Josh Hamilton drove in Mike Trout in the sixth for the Angels, who bounced back after Yoenis Cespedes kept it tied in the eighth by cutting down Howie Kendrick at the plate with a 300-foot throw on the fly from deep down the left-field line.

Cowgill connected against Jeff Francis (0-1), driving a two-strike pitch just over Cespedes' head into the bullpens beyond left field.

Nick Punto doubled and scored the tying run on Jed Lowrie's sacrifice fly in the eighth for the A's, who have lost four of six. Los Angeles trimmed Oakland's lead in the AL West to 2 1/2 games.

Cory Rasmus (2-0) pitched two hitless innings for Los Angeles' maligned bullpen, which yielded one run in eight innings.

YANKEES 3, MARINERS 2

SEATTLE (AP) — Jacoby Ellsbury lined an RBI single on an 0-2 pitch to score Derek Jeter with the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, sending New York past Seattle.

Ellsbury extended his hitting streak to 14 games — the longest for a Yankees player since Jeter's 19-game streak in 2012 — and gave New York its fourth victory in 11 games. Ellsbury's hit came after Jeter's ground-rule double ended the night for Mariners starter Hisashi Iwakuma (4-3), who had not been threatened since the first inning.

Dellin Betances (4-0) got the win in relief of starter Vidal Nuno despite giving up the lead in the seventh on Dustin Ackley's RBI single.

TWINS 4, BLUE JAYS 0

TORONTO (AP) — Brian Dozier hit a two-run home run, Kevin Correia won for the first time in four starts

and Minnesota beat Toronto.

Newly signed slugger Kendrys Morales had two hits and scored a run as the Twins avoided falling a season-worst five games below .500.

The Blue Jays were shut out for the third time in four games.

Correia (3-7) allowed six hits, walked one and struck out one in six innings. It was his first scoreless outing since Aug. 27, 2013, with seven innings against Kansas City.

J.A. Happ (5-3) lost for the second time in three starts for Toronto, allowing four runs, three earned, and six hits in 3 2-3 innings. He walked three and struck out three.

ROYALS 9, INDIANS 5

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Jason Vargas cooled down hot-hitting Cleveland, Eric Hosmer hit a two-run homer and Kansas City held on to beat the Indians.

Hosmer also drove in a run during a four-run fourth inning. Alex Gordon homered in the eighth and Mike Moustakas hit a two-run shot later that inning as the Royals (32-32) moved back to .500 by matching their second-best run total of the season. Vargas (6-2) gave up six hits and hit three batters with pitches, but didn't allow a run until Jason Kipnis drove in a pair with a two-out double in the eighth. Aaron Crow got four outs for his first save of the season. Corey Kluber (6-4), who dominated the Royals earlier this season, allowed six runs — three earned — and six hits over five innings.

RED SOX 1, ORIOLES 0

BALTIMORE (AP) — Brandon Workman allowed one hit over 6 2-3 innings, and Boston beat Chris Tillman and the Baltimore Orioles for its second win in eight games. Mike Napoli's third-inning RBI single was all the offense the Red Sox needed to come out on the positive end of a pitchers' duel for the first time this season.

Beauty On The Beach

Lucy Wisk

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Klinsmann: Unrealistic for U.S. to expect title

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

SAO PAULO (AP) — American fans decked out in red, white and blue watched their team's lone public training session in Brazil, cheering and seeking autographs.

Jurgen Klinsmann maintains they shouldn't expect the U.S. to lift soccer's top trophy for the first time July 13, even if that stance upsets some.

"I think for us now, talking about winning a World Cup is just not realistic," the American coach said Wednesday during his first news conference in Brazil before the tournament. "First, we've got to make it through the group. So let's stay with our feet on the ground and say let's get that group first done, and then the sky is the limit."

The Americans open Monday against Ghana, the team that eliminated them from the last two World Cups, then play No. 4 Portugal and FIFA Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo. They close group play against three-time champion Germany, the world's second-ranked team.

Odds makers peg the U.S. chances of winning the title at 250-1, up from 60-1 before December's draw.

"I'll be at the Natal game. I'll be in Manaus. And I'll also be in Recife — and, hopefully, the next stage," Liliana Ayalde, the U.S. ambassador to Brazil, said after the almost two-hour training session.

Klinsmann won the 1990 World Cup as a player for West Germany and coached Germany to the 2006 semifinals. He caused a stir last weekend when he was quoted by The New York Times Magazine as saying in a December interview "we cannot win this World Cup, because we are not at that level yet." Klinsmann, who has lived in Orange County, California, for most of the last 16 years, was accused by some commentators of having an un-American mentality.

"If it's now American or not American, I don't know," he said. "You can correct me however you want."

Mix Diskerud, the 23-year-old midfielder with a Norwegian father and Arizonan mother, took Klinsmann's remarks as a challenge.

"That's an opportunity for us to prove him wrong," he said.

Midfielder Alejandro Bedoya thought it was a meaningless debate.

"The media, when they get a chance to get a hold of anything, they'll get it going," he said. "He's been optimistic with us since Day 1, and there's nothing short of confidence in him and his belief in us."

Only eight nations have won the World Cup, all from Europe and South America. Brazil has a record five titles, followed by Italy (four), Germany (three), Argentina and Uruguay (two each), and England, France and Spain (one apiece).

"Look, we haven't won a World Cup before, so you can't go into the World Cup saying, 'Oh, we have to do what we've done in the past,'" forward Jozy Altidore said. "You come here obviously with that dream in the back of your mind."

Let's not be silly. At the same time you have to be realistic and understand there are some teams that maybe are a bit more favored than we are obviously to win the tournament."

The Americans enter ranked 13th, nine below their record high in April 2006. Their best World Cup finish was at the first tournament, when they reached the semifinals in 1930.

This is the seventh straight World Cup appearance for the Americans, who failed to qualify from 1950-90.

"I think we are every year making another step forward," Klinsmann said. "We always now approach games where we say we don't look at ourselves as an underdog, even if a lot of people want to put us as



United States head coach Jurgen Klinsmann, left, addresses his team during a training session at the Sao Paulo FC training center in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Tuesday, June 10, 2014. Klinsmann arrived in Brazil on Tuesday, a day after the team's arrival, because he stayed behind in Miami to watch a friendly between Ghana and South Korea. The U.S. will play against Ghana on June 16 in group G of the 2014 soccer World Cup.

Associated Press

the underdog. In this very difficult group, we're not. We're going to go in there and take the game to Ghana and they will take it to us, and then we'll go back and forth and hope-

fully the people see an exciting game and us as a winner at the end of the day. And then we go from there."

Midfielder Jermaine Jones, one of five German-Ameri-

cans on the 23-man roster, isn't focusing on the public debate.

"It's not important what the people outside say. It's important what is inside of the group," he explained. □



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Murray wins at Queen's with Mauresmo watching

BARRY WOOD

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Andy Murray won his first match since adding Amelie Mauresmo as his new coach, beating Frenchman Paul-Henri Mathieu 6-4, 6-4 in the second round of the Queen's Club grass-court tournament on Wednesday.

"I was looking forward to getting back on the court," Murray said. "I enjoy playing here. I love being back on the grass."

"I thought I was quite disciplined with my movement today. I moved pretty well. I wasn't sliding about too much. Yeah, it was a good start."

Top seed and Australian Open winner Stanislas Wawrinka also advanced into the third round when Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus retired with a right shoulder injury as the Swiss led 3-2.

There was victory too for 2011 finalist and fifth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France, who weathered a close first set before overwhelming Belgium's David Goffin 7-6 (5), 6-2.

Since his loss to Roger Federer in the 2012 Wimbledon final, Murray has won



British Andy Murray in action against Paul-Henri Mathieu of France during the Aegon Championships tennis tournament at The Queen's Club in London, Wednesday June 11, 2014.

Associated Press

19 consecutive matches on grass and captured three titles, including the 2012 London Olympic gold at the All England Club, and Wimbledon and Queen's last year.

Murray hired former top-ranked player and two-time major winner Mauresmo as his coach on Sunday, initially for the grass-court season. He has been without a coach since he parted ways with Ivan Lendl in March.

Hiring a female coach has generated a great deal of

attention, and although he previously worked with his mother, Judy, for a long period, he admits that such a move at his level of the game was unusual.

"At first when I thought about it, it was obviously a consideration, because for a few years I haven't worked with a woman," he said.

"Now the decision has been made, it's not something that I'm thinking about. It's more about the qualities that she can bring that will help me and

my tennis and my team as well. I hope it works out long term because I like her. She's a good person. I hope it works out well."

Murray was impressed with Mauresmo when they met, and saw the qualities she could bring.

"After I spoke to her the first time I just really liked her. She was calm. She asked a lot of questions. She listened."

She listened a lot. I liked chatting to her, so then I decided to sit down and speak to her and had a good chat with her about tennis.

"This week, there's not going to be any big changes in my game. I also wouldn't expect any before Wimbledon. But we'll definitely work on some things after the tournament is finished here."

Ernest Gulbis, who reached his maiden Grand Slam semifinal at the French Open last week, fell to Kenny De Schepper of France 7-6 (3), 7-5.

"I like the grass," Gulbis, the sixth seed from Latvia said. "But I never played well the first tournament. I always played decent in Wimbledon if I practiced well. So

now I'm going to stay here, practice two weeks on grass. I'm going to be fully fine for Wimbledon."

Lleyton Hewitt remains one victory short of Roger Federer's record of 122 match wins on grass after being beaten 6-3, 6-4 by Feliciano Lopez.

Hewitt, a four-time champion at Queen's, was broken once in each set and failed to earn a single break point against the Spaniard. It's the first time the Australian has lost to Lopez in five meetings.

Hewitt had been bidding to become the first player to win Queen's five times. He shares the record of four titles with Andy Roddick.

"I played a bit of a loose game the second game of the match," he said. "Then, yeah, he served really well the whole match. He had a lot better rhythm today than he did yesterday in his first-round match. He hit his spots really well."

Vasek Pospisil of Canada, Dmitry Tursunov of Russia, and Nicolas Mahut of France were beaten, but there were wins for eighth seed Alexandr Dolgoplov of Ukraine and Radek Stepanek. □



In this Wednesday, March 26, 2014, file photo, Martina Hingis, of Switzerland, returns the ball to Anabel Medina Garrigues, of Spain and Yaroslava Shvedova, of Kazakhstan, during her doubles match with Sabine Lisicki, of Germany, at the Sony Open Tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla.

Associated Press

Hingis gets Wimbledon wild card for doubles

LONDON (AP) — Martina Hingis is returning to play at Wimbledon for the first time in seven years.

The former singles and doubles champion from Switzerland was granted a wild card by the All England Club on Wednesday for the women's doubles tournament. Her partner is Russia's Vera Zvonareva, a former doubles winner and singles runner-up.

In addition to her singles title in 1997, the 33-year-old Hingis is a two-time doubles winner at Wimbledon, with Helena Sukova in 1996 and Jana Novotna in 1998.

After a second retirement in 2007, Hingis returned to

the game in July 2013 but has restricted her outings to doubles.

She last played at Wimbledon in 2007, losing in the third round of the singles. Her last doubles appearance at Wimbledon dates back to 2000, when she went out in the second round.

Hingis has been playing doubles this year with Germany's Sabine Lisicki. They won in Miami, giving Hingis her first title since 2007.

With Lisicki now concentrating on singles, Hingis turned to Zvonareva, who won the Wimbledon doubles title with Elena Vesnina in 2010 and lost to Serena Williams

in the singles final in 2010. However, the 29-year-old Zvonareva has barely competed since 2012 because of illness and injury.

Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus, a Wimbledon semifinalist in 2006, was granted a wild card for the men's singles tournament.

His ATP ranking has slipped to No. 118. Five British players also received wild cards.

Among the women, Kristyna Pliskova of the Czech Republic and three British players were given wild card singles entries.

More wild cards will be announced before play begins on June 23rd. □

Alibaba's first U.S. presence 11 Main debuts

MAE ANDERSON

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — China's largest e-commerce company is making its first appearance in the U.S. with the debut of 11Main.com, an invite-only online marketplace that showcases small business retailers.

Industry watchers will be paying close attention because 11 Main is owned by Alibaba, the e-commerce giant in China that filed for an initial public offering in the U.S. in May. Bigger than Amazon and eBay combined, Alibaba had no U.S. e-commerce presence until now.

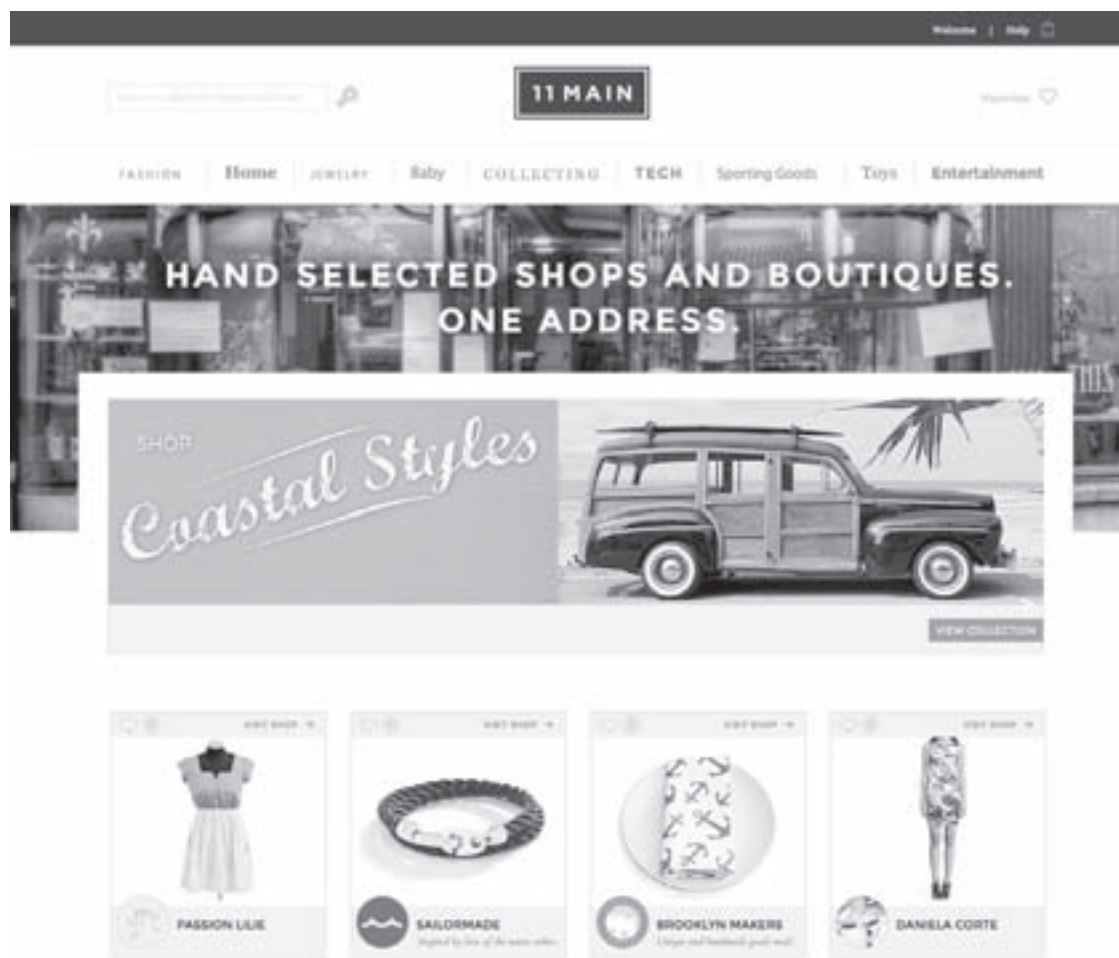
Forrester analyst Sucharita Mulpuru believes Alibaba won't find it easy to break into the crowded online shopping industry.

"U.S. e-commerce is crowded and relies on high marketing expenses to rise above the clutter," she said. "The hope is high. We'll see if they live up to expectations."

For now, Alibaba is starting small with 11 Main, based in San Mateo, California. The site, which debuts Wednesday in a beta phase, will feature "hundreds of thousands" of products from 1,000 to 2,000 upscale specialty shops and boutiques around the country that were vetted by 11 Main.

11 Main is going live just as Alibaba prepares to go public. Although it's not well-known in the United States, Alibaba is a powerhouse that helped drive the rise of e-commerce in China, a transformation that has given millions of households greater access to clothes, books and consumer electronics in a society that in the 1980s still required ration tickets for some supermarket items.

The 15-year-old company has navigated technical and financial challenges and a battle with eBay Inc. to become the world's biggest online bazaar and is now planning to sell stock in the U.S. Analysts say its initial public offering —



This screen shot shows 11 Main's homepage. The new e-commerce site is hoping to bring Main Street to the Web with an invite-only online marketplace that focuses on small-business retailers.
Associated Press

planned for later this year—could raise up to \$20 billion. The 11 Main site's layout is clutter-free and without ads, similar to social-media sharing site Pinterest. Shoppers can browse or search by category or retailer. The site features video profiles of some of the small businesses along with its products to give users a sense of what the stores and their owners are like.

Forrester analyst Kelland Willis said Alibaba's strategy with 11 Main is to try to offer the Amazon or eBay shopper a different type of online shopping experience, giving each vendor its own identity on the site and offering a more curated shopping experience. That's what Alibaba's hugely successful sites offer in China, Willis said.

"They're trying to come in to the U.S. market and compete using that," she said.

Without ads or retailer fees, 11 Main plans to generate revenue by taking a 3.5 percent cut of each trans-

action. In return, retailers get 11 Main's national marketing power and reach.

"We want the shops to represent the diversity of Main Street. Some shops are

high-end boutiques and some are more vintage," said Mike Effle, president and general manager of 11 Main. The company's name is intended to evoke

Google helps open new home for startups in Berlin

BERLIN (AP) — Internet entrepreneurs have received a new home in the German capital with the opening of the "Factory" — a workspace developed in partnership with Google Inc. that allows startups to innovate and collaborate under one roof.

"Factory" founder Simon Schaefer said Wednesday's opening of the

16,000-square-meter (172,224-sq.-foot) building was helped with a 1 million euro (\$1.4 million) investment from Google.

He said new businesses will benefit "from the internationalism of our partners and will get attention from investors and potential cus-

tomers from around the world."

Google's Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt was on hand for the opening of the workspace, in a former brewery, which is designed for some 500 people.

The first occupants will also include established firms like Twitter, Soundcloud and Mozilla.

Tweet self-propagates through TweetDeck

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A tweet containing computer code has propagated itself through Twitter by taking advantage of a security flaw in the company's TweetDeck application.

In response, Twitter shut down the application's ac-

cess to tweets for about an hour Wednesday while fixing the problem.

The tweet was automatically "retweeted," or sent out again, when processed by TweetDeck, a computer application for Twitter's power users. Affected tweeters saw pop-up windows on their screens. The tweet was retweeted tens of thousands of times.

Twitter initially told TweetDeck users to log out and log back in. When that proved ineffective, it shut down the application's access to tweets.

It's not the first time tweets containing JavaScript code have self-propagated through security holes in Twitter.

The last major outbreak was in 2010.

Stocks fall back on weak data, growth outlook

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market fell back from record levels Wednesday because of a weaker forecast for global growth and con-

plane maker was already priced into the stock. Stocks opened lower after the World Bank predicted weaker global growth this year, citing a tough winter in America and the po-

The report was a reality check for investors who had pushed major stock indexes to all-time highs this week amid optimism that the U.S. economy was strengthening. Stronger

Sorensen, director of market and sector research at Charles Schwab.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 6.90 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,943.89. The index had closed at a record of 1,951.27 on Monday. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 102.04 points, or 0.6 percent, to 16,843.88. The Nasdaq composite slipped 6.07 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,331.93.

On Wednesday, airline stocks were among the big losers after Lufthansa warned of smaller profits caused by weaker passenger demand. Lufthansa AG cut its forecast for 2014 and 2015 operating income due to the weaker demand and strikes, among other reasons. Delta dropped \$1.21, or 3 percent, to \$40.71, making it the second-biggest loser among S&P 500 stocks.

Still, Delta's stock is up 48 percent this year, the most of any U.S. carrier.

Boeing was another big decliner. The plane maker's stock fell \$3.15, or 2.3 percent, to \$134.10 after analysts at RBC said that after three years of record orders and with no new planes in the pipeline, the good news for Boeing is "already out there." □



Trader Greg Mulligan, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, June 9, 2014. The stock market nudged higher Monday morning after a handful of U.S. companies announced acquisitions. Family Dollar's stock jumped following news that investor Carl Icahn has taken a stake in the company.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

cerns about airline profits. Delta Air Lines and other carriers fell after Germany's Lufthansa warned of smaller profits. Boeing slid after analysts said that most of the good news about the

political crisis in Ukraine. The bank said late Tuesday that it expects the world economy to grow 2.8 percent this year instead of the 3.2 percent it predicted in January.

growth should translate into higher revenues and better results for U.S. companies. Stocks "were going up so much in the last few days that they were due for a little breather," said Brad

Lew says economy still facing major challenges

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said Wednesday that the economy should grow at much stronger rates the rest of this year as the country overcomes the impact of a harsh winter. But Lew said millions of Americans continue to struggle as unemployment remains too high and economic growth is too slow.

"Evidence continues to mount that our economy is gaining traction," Lew said in a speech to the Economic Club of New York. "Nevertheless, we cannot escape the fact that millions of Americans continue to struggle and their pain reminds us that our work is not finished. ... For too many families this hard-

ly feels like a recovery." In his remarks, which were distributed in Washington, Lew called for actions by

the government and the private sector to boost hiring of the long-term unemployed and increase



Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew testifies before a House Financial Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. Lew on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 said that the economy should grow at much stronger rates the rest of this year as the country overcomes the impact of a harsh winter. But Lew said millions of Americans continue to struggle as unemployment remains too high and economic growth is too slow.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

investment in productivity-enhancing equipment and critical infrastructure projects such as roads, railways and ports.

Lew said the country also needed a stronger commitment to education in the areas of science, math and engineering to make sure students have the skills they need to compete in the new economy.

Lew said that from 1948 to 2007, the economy grew at average annual rates of 3.4 percent per year. But he said the Congressional Budget Office is now projecting that after the economy returns to full employment, economic growth will only average about 2.1 percent per year — just two-thirds of the average right after World War II. □

Emirates Airlines cancels major jet order from Airbus

NICOLA CLARK

© 2014 New York Times

PARIS - Airbus suffered a major blow to its latest commercial jet program on Wednesday after one of its largest customers, Emirates Airlines, said it had decided to cancel a multibillion-dollar order for 70 long-range planes.

The news comes just months before the new jet, the A350-XWB, is due to enter service, prompting some analysts to wonder whether the decision by Emirates could presage a slowdown in aircraft orders from Persian Gulf carriers.

Those airlines have been among the most voracious buyers in recent years of wide-body planes from both Airbus and Boeing.

In a statement, Airbus said that Emirates would not take the planes - 50 of a 300-seat model, the A350-900, and 20 of the larger A350-1000 jets - which had been slated for delivery beginning in 2019.

The Emirates order was valued at roughly \$16 billion when it was placed in 2007; at current list prices, it would be worth more than \$21 billion.

The reasons for the decision by Emirates were not immediately clear.

"The contract which we signed in 2007 for 70 A350 aircraft has lapsed," a spokeswoman for the airline said. "We are reviewing our fleet requirements." Howard Wheeldon, an independent consultant and a fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society in London, said: "This is about the industry, not the aircraft." Some analysts were hesitant to view the cancellations solely in the context of a possible regional slowdown. Saj Ahmad, the chief analyst for StrategicAero Research in London, noted that the carrier had expressed disappointment that the A350 did not compare more favorably against rival Boeing jets in terms of range and fuel consumption. □

Founder opposes reelection of 2 to Lululemon board

NEW YORK (AP) — The founder of yoga clothing company Lululemon said Wednesday that he voted against the re-election of outside directors to the retailer's board. Chip Wilson said in a statement that he is "concerned that the board is not aligned with the core values of product and innovation on which

Lululemon was founded and on which the company thrived." Wilson said he was asked by Lululemon Athletica Inc.'s board last year to come back from Australia — where he had been living — to help the company deal with a product recall. Last spring Lululemon pulled one of its popular yoga pants from

stores because they were too sheer, which it blamed on a style change and production issues. Fixing the problem cost the company millions and made investors question quality control.

Wilson, who has a 27 percent stake in the Canadian company, said that he believes board changes are needed to help increase

shareholder value. He voted against re-electing Michael Casey and RoAnn Costin. Casey is a former Starbucks Corp. executive who became Lululemon's chairman after Wilson resigned from the post. Wilson resigned after comments he made publicly suggested that the larger bodies of some consum-

ers were to blame for other quality issues of the company's yoga pants.

Costin is president of private equity firm Reservoir Capital Management Inc. U.S. shares of Lululemon fell \$1.18, or 2.6 percent, to \$44.30 in afternoon trading Wednesday. Its shares have fallen 9 percent over the past three months. □

Europe's Lufthansa trims profit forecast for 2 years

NICOLA CLARK

© 2014 New York Times

PARIS - Lufthansa, Europe's second-biggest airline, on Wednesday sharply reduced its profit forecasts for the next two years, citing slower than expected recovery in demand for its passenger and cargo services, as well as the fallout from widespread strikes earlier this year.

It was the latest sign of the strength of economic and competitive headwinds facing Europe's major carriers.

In a statement, Lufthansa said it expected an operating profit for the current year of 1 billion euros (\$1.35 billion), after forecasting a profit of as much as 1.5 billion euros as recently as March.

The airline also reduced its target for 2015 earnings to 2 billion euros, from a previous 2.6 billion euros.

Lufthansa's latest woes come as its new chief ex-



Lufthansa planes wait at the airport of Duesseldorf, Germany. Lufthansa, Europe's second-biggest airline, on Wednesday sharply reduced its profit forecasts for the next two years, citing slower than expected recovery in demand for its passenger and cargo services, as well as the fallout from widespread strikes earlier this year.

(AP Photo/Federico Gambarini)

ecutive, Carsten Spohr, is struggling to maintain the early momentum of an ambitious cost-cutting drive

that began in 2012 and aims to eliminate 1.5 billion euros in costs by the end of 2015.

That plan involves, among other measures, the elimination of roughly 3,500 jobs - an effort the airline's

unions have strongly opposed.

Lufthansa pilots staged a three-day strike in April, forcing the airline to cancel roughly 3,800 flights that affected more than 425,000 passengers.

In a conference call with analysts, Lufthansa's chief financial officer, Simone Menne, said the strike had reduced Lufthansa's profit by around 60 million euros. Currency restrictions in Venezuela, which have prevented airlines and other foreign businesses from repatriating revenue from that country, have shaved earnings by a further 60 million euros.

Lufthansa's belt-tightening efforts come as full-service carriers across Europe confront more competition from budget airlines in their home markets, as well as encroachment on their lucrative long-distance routes by Middle Eastern rivals. □

Cold winter, Ukraine lead to lower growth forecast

ANNIE LOWREY

© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - The World Bank has downgraded its estimate of the world's economic expansion in a new forecast released Tuesday, with developing economies posting disappointing growth rates and the frigid winter in the United States and the crisis in Ukraine weighing on growth, too.

The development institution, based in Washington, now anticipates global growth of just 2.8 percent in 2014, picking up to 3.5 percent in 2016. In its previous forecast, made in January,

it estimated that the global economy would grow 3.2 percent this year.

"This is the third year in a row that developing countries have grown less than 5 percent," said Andrew Burns, the lead author of the World Bank report. "It frankly is the third year in a row that we've been disappointed in the actual outcomes."

The World Bank sharply downgraded its estimate for growth in the United States this year to 2.1 percent from 2.8 percent, while also cutting its collective forecast for small high-

income countries, including Croatia and Hong Kong. It mostly maintained its estimates of growth in other major advanced industrial economies, with the euro area expected to expand about 1.1 percent and Japan about 1.3 percent.

Burns said that the slowdown was mostly a result of the sluggish first quarter in the United States, when cold weather sapped the recovery and a sharp deceleration in inventory accumulation caused economic output to shrink at a 1 percent annual pace. Even so, rich economies

are becoming a bigger contributor to global growth, the bank said, and are expected to account for about half of the rise in output in 2015, up from less than 40 percent last year.

Along with the downgrade to the United States, the World Bank said that it continued to expect relatively sluggish growth in the big middle-income economies that helped power the recovery from the recession. The World Bank now expects developing economies, in total, to grow about 4.8 percent this year. It anticipated growth of 5.3

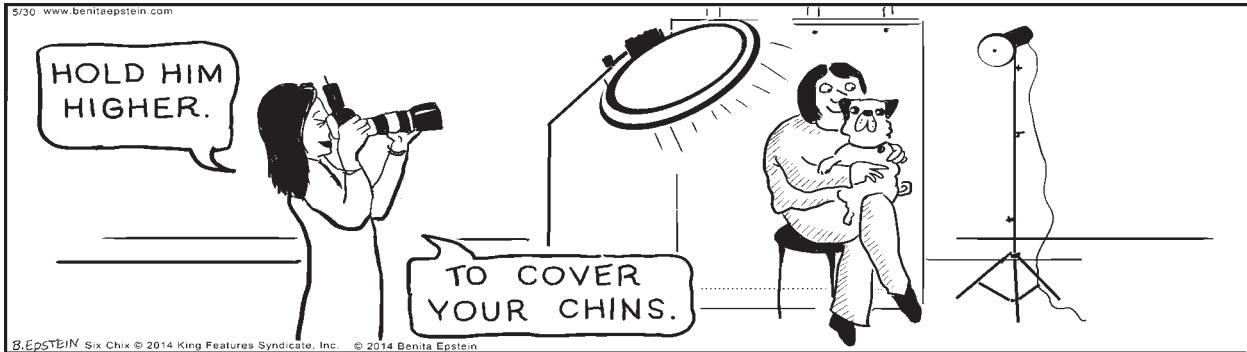
percent in January.

Political strife played a major role in the downgrades. The bank knocked 2 percentage points off its growth estimate for Thailand, where the military has ousted the elected government, and more than 1 percentage point off its estimate for developing Europe and Central Asia. It also downgraded its forecast for Latin America and the Caribbean by 1 percentage point and its forecast for the Middle East and North Africa by nearly that much. □

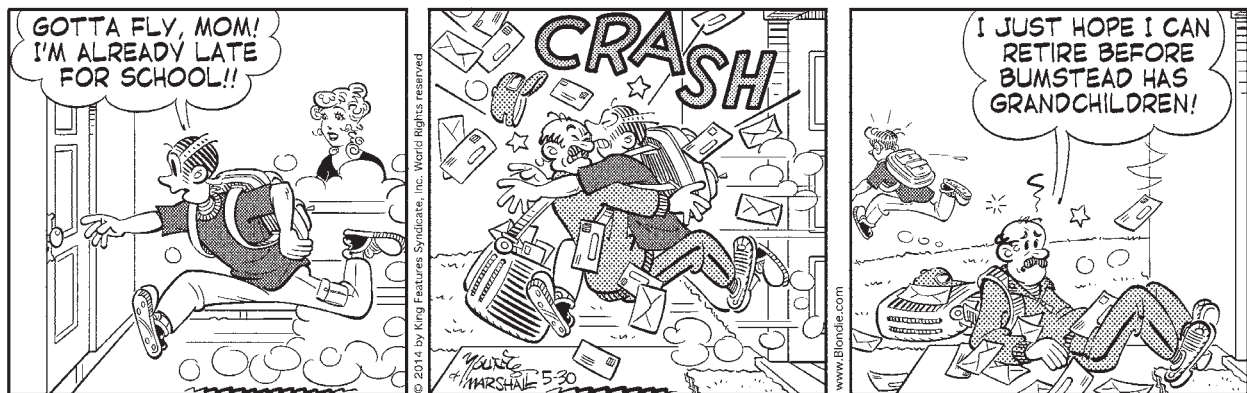
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



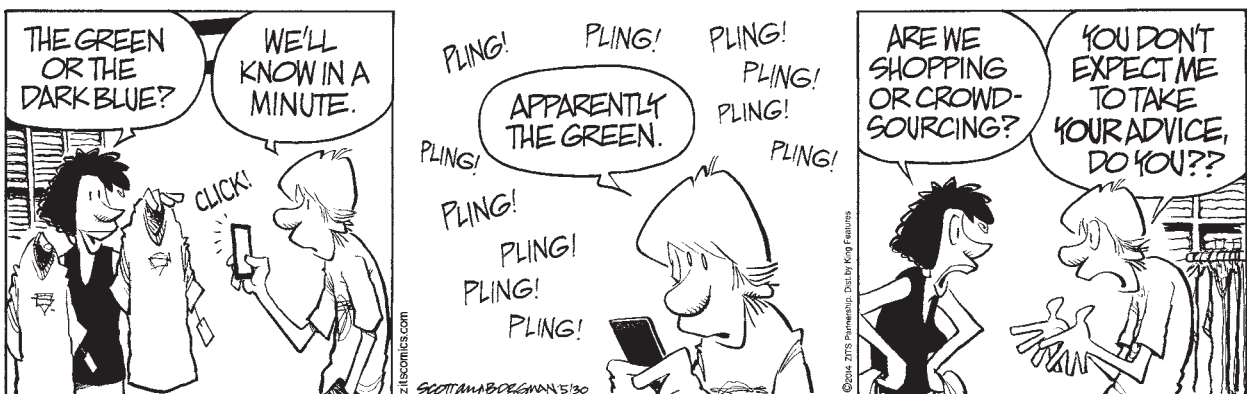
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

7	2		4			3		8
4				2				
					8			4
1						4		
	3			5			9	
		8						6
9			2					
				7				5
6		2			3		1	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/30

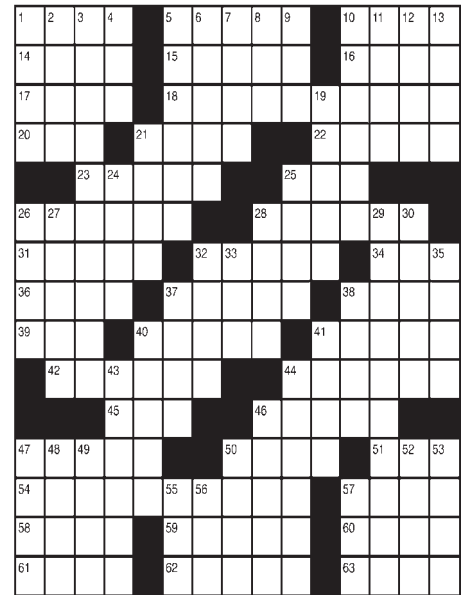
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	6	8	7	5	1	3	4	9
1	7	9	3	4	6	5	2	8
3	4	5	9	2	8	6	1	7
8	3	6	4	7	5	1	9	2
4	9	1	2	6	3	7	8	5
5	2	7	1	8	9	4	6	3
9	8	4	6	3	7	2	5	1
6	1	3	5	9	2	8	7	4
7	5	2	8	1	4	9	3	6

ACROSS

- One of the Three Bears
- Boop of old cartoons
- Lively
- friendly; easy to operate
- E-mail provider for millions
- "My Country, 'Tis of _"
- Location
- Expert in language rules & punctuation
- Street paver's substance
- First word in a warning
- Fargo; multinational banking group
- Unlocks
- Car fuel
- Gangster Al _
- Poland's capital
- Horrible pain
- Plank
- To and _
- Coat with a thin layer of gold
- Brief bit of hype
- One-pot meal
- Actor Wallach
- Public uprisings
- Portion
- Chaperone
- Loan _; usurers
- Out-of-date
- Injures
- Complete; utter
- Excavates
- Sweltering
- Modest
- Baseball's Ruth
- Alternative to suspenders
- Parody; sham
- Passionate
- Invites
- for; chose
- Understands



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/30/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

SORE	FJORD	NOVA
WHOA	LABOR	EVIL
AILS	ABIDE	MEAL
POETESS	EAGERLY	
ELK	ANDES	
CAPRI	TUT	NICKS
IRON	KID	DESIRE
GEL	RECIPES	DOE
ANYWAY	BIN	TEND
RAPID	ALE	SARAS
ZAIRE	WEB	
INFERNO	BREATHE	
LOAN	LUCIE	SOON
LAKE	ASPEN	COLD
SHED	YEARS	OLDS

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5/30/14

DOWN

- Has to
- Huge continent

- Large city area
- "My lips _ sealed"
- From the past
- Deserves
- This and _
- Actor Selleck
- Kippur
- Tension
- Skier _ Mahre
- Authentic
- Strong urges
- Prize
- Declare untrue
- Small lake
- Attire
- Canary's home
- Light-footed
- Armed conflicts
- English Leather or Old Spice
- Destroy
- Stain; spot
- Not at home
- Has debts
- Robin or wren
- Thailand, once
- Parker House _; bread items

- Greek letters
- Shorelines
- Drooped
- Chop finely
- Largest brass instrument
- Dollar bills
- Converse
- Soil
- Death notice, for short
- Turner and Koppel
- Alien's vehicle, for short
- GPS screen image
- Paper sack

World Cup: Likes, dislikes, predictions

GREGOR AISCH,
DAVID LEONHARDT
KEVIN QUEALY
© 2014 New York Times

Argentina, the United States and Iran appear to be the most disliked World Cup teams. Brazilian fans enter the World Cup as the most confident, though Argentines and Spaniards aren't far behind in their home-country optimism. And fans across many countries agree that the Brazilians play the most attractive form of soccer. These are among the results from a study of people in 19 countries conducted by YouGov, the online survey firm, in collaboration with The New York Times. The study offers insight into the psyche of fans around the world as they prepare for the most watched tournament in sports.



Passengers rest on beanbags decorated like soccer balls as they wait for their flights ahead of the World Cup at the Guarulhos international airport in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Tuesday, June 10, 2014. The international tournament starts on June 12.

(AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

Highlights include:

- Politics, geography and good old schadenfreude seem to play a strong role in rooting. A plurality of Mexican respondents named the United States

as their least-favorite team. Brazilians chose Argentines, and vice versa. Greeks named their bankers: both Germany and the United States. Elsewhere in Europe, the wounds of an old war seem long forgotten; few fans named Germany as their most disliked team. In Asia, by contrast, Japan and South Korea do not like each other. The United States, Argentina and Iran each have more than their share of haters around the world.

- A strong plurality of fans in only three countries - Argentina, Brazil and Spain - predict their own country to win the tournament. (A plurality in the United States also picked the home team to win, against all odds, but that plurality consisted of only 14 percent of Americans; the rest picked another team or said they didn't know who would win.) Everywhere else, the most common prediction was Brazil. In many countries, the home team was the second- or third-most commonly predicted winner. One notable exception: England. The English just don't believe in their

team anymore.

- There is little debate about who plays the beautiful game, or "joga bonito," as it's known in Portuguese: Brazil does.

A plurality of fans in the countries we studied, when asked who plays the most appealing brand of soccer, named Brazil. We didn't allow people to name their country on this question; Brazilians picked Spain, the defending champion.

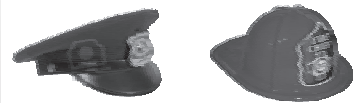
- Colombians are among the world's biggest soccer fans. Only 6 percent of Colombian respondents said they were "not interested" in the sport, the lowest level among our 19 countries. More broadly, the highest levels of interest are in Latin America. □

DOCTOR ON DUTY



Oranjestad
Dr. Alvarez

EMERGENCIA 911



POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

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Botica Trupiaal N.V. Tel: 583-8560
Centro Medico N.V. Tel: 587-5794

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

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12 Juni Carnival Breeze
07.00 - 16.00

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American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
Tiara Air	588-4272
Venezolana	583-7674

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FUNDACION

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Diabetic Foundation

Arubano

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Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

Women in Difficulties

Foundation

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Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002

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This spacious 4 bedroom property is located at the end of a cul-de-sac in North. It has enough space to build a pool or guest apartment. The garden is fully fenced-in and has nice a landscaped yard. The built-up area is 217m²/ 2321 sq.ft. including the covered back porch, land size 837m².

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201937

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e-mail: rmwjmwa@aol.com
508-651-0016

202065

Food companies work with farmers on sustainability

DAVID PITT

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) —

U.S. companies relying on farmers for the raw materials in their products must take a more active role in ensuring the crops are grown in a way that minimizes damage to water, soil, and environment, a report released Wednesday said.

Ceres, a nonprofit network of investors, companies and public interest groups, focused in its report on climate change's effect on corn production.

It said farmers and the companies they supply must deal with drought and other weather extremes, an increase in groundwater-depleting irrigation, and more fertilizer use.

"Companies that depend on U.S. corn have a big role to play in sending market signals that these issues matter," said Brooke Barton, water program director at Ceres and co-author of the report,

which argues that increased corn production has depleted land and water resources in some areas and contributed to increased water pollution from fertilizer runoff.

Food giants working with Ceres include General Mills and Unilever,

both of which have adopted sustainability programs suggested by the organization that set specific goals for suppliers and farmers.

The report calls for the establishment of corporate policies for goals to reduce the environmental impact, procurement contracts that require sustainably grown crops, and efforts



Ray Gaesser works on a sprayer on his farm, Wednesday, June 11, 2014, near Corning, Iowa.

Associated Press

to identify areas of high water stress, groundwater pollution and overuse of fertilizer.

Ceres also recommends that companies substitute other grains for corn where environmental benefits are well demonstrated, and disclose to investors the company's exposure to climate and water-related risks in its agricultural supply chain.

In Irapuato, Mexico, General Mills provided interest-free loans to farmers to help them invest in drip irrigation equipment to grow Green Giant vegetables, saving more than 1 billion gallons of water a year, the company said.

Corporations are taking on the additional expense to ensure future supplies, but also because of customer demand, said Jerry Lynch,

chief sustainability officer for General Mills.

Unilever is working with U.S. soybean farmers on a project to use a newly developed calculator that measures fertilizer use, water quality,

energy use, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Unilever has set a goal of 100 percent sustainably sourced commodities by 2020.

Jonathan Atwood, the company's vice president of sustainable living, said the company began at 12 percent in 2010 and achieved 48 percent globally this year.

Coca-Cola announced last year it would buy all of its agricultural ingredients from sustainable sources by 2020, including the corn used for its high-fructose corn syrup. □

Unmanned aerial vehicles are flying to the U.S. farm



In this Monday, May 19, 2014 photo, an unmanned aerial vehicle equipped with a multi-spectral camera awaits takeoff at the Southeastern Agricultural Center's research farm in Moultrie, Ga.

Associated Press

OHNNY CLARK

Associated Press

MOULTRIE, Georgia (AP) —

Aerial drones, a technology perhaps best known for helping hunt terrorists, may soon begin helping U.S. farmers monitor what's happening in their fields.

In Georgia, a group of state and federal officials — along with members of industry and academia

— has been working since 2009 to develop a drone that can save a farmer's time and resources during the growing season.

The public got its first glimpse of the drone at a flight demonstration last month at a research farm.

By deploying an unmanned aerial vehicle, or UAV, with a multi-spectral camera to survey crops,

farmers could spot water and nutrition issues, insect infestations and fungal infections.

"The UAV saves a tremendous amount of time," said Eric Corban, founder and chief technology officer for Guided Systems Technologies Inc., a company that helped develop the software.

"Traditionally you would walk the field, and you would only get a small portion of the field sample."

Although the technology is only in the testing phase, commercial use could begin once the Federal Aviation Administration issues rules.

"We're working very close with the FAA," said Steve Justice, director of the Georgia Center of Innovation for Aerospace. "They have direction from the Congress to issue rules for the use of unmanned aircraft systems by the fall of 2015."

Agriculture has had a rich history of technology advances. □

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Review: Inspired comic chemistry in '22 Jump St'

JOCELYN NOVECK

AP National Writer

Things are always worse the second time around, the deputy police chief warns the buddy-cop team of Jenko and Schmidt in "22 Jump Street."

He's talking about their next assignment, but of course, it's an inside joke — with the audience. "22 Jump Street," starring the inspired comic duo of Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum, is a sequel, and movie sequels are indeed often worse (especially when, as the chief also points out, the budget's bigger the second time around.)

Self-referential jokes aside, things aren't worse the second time around for Hill, Tatum and directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller.

It's fine to make fun of sequels — and this movie does, all the way to a fabulous ending-credits bit that steals the film — when you know you've made a pretty darned good one yourself.

Not that this film is perfect — some jokes go too far, or too long, or both, and one running gag involving prison sex is gratuitous, ill-advised, unfunny, and, well, we'd say more but three adjectives are enough. Many more jokes, though — spoken and visual — succeed beautifully.

And the cast? It's a pretty heavenly group, anchored of course by Hill and Tatum, who have a Laurel-and-Hardy-like implausible chemistry that keeps you laughing pretty much no matter what they're doing. If you never saw "21 Jump Street," no worries — the filmmakers bring you up to speed fast.

The last film saw Jenko (Tatum) and Schmidt (Hill) go undercover to high school. This time, it's college they're ordered to infiltrate, to thwart a nasty drug ring. ("I'm the first person in my family to pretend to go to college," Jenko says proudly.)

It's part of the joke that the pasty, pudgy Schmidt, especially, hardly looks college-age and doesn't really try, despite his need to

blend in. "Tell us about the war — ANY of them," one student, Mercedes (a terrific Jillian Bell), says to him mockingly. Even less plausible than Schmidt being an undergrad: that the exquisitely gorgeous art major Maya, Mercedes' roommate (Amber Stevens), would somehow hook up with him, when he's nothing but bumbling in her presence.

But, as they say in college, whatever. Maybe she's blown away by his (terrible, and very funny) attempt at slam poetry.

The college setting provides its usual comic fodder, starting with a cute montage involving things you need to live in college dorms: Pop-up laundry hampers, bean-bag chairs, lava lamps, shower poofs, a bacon machine (don't ask.) There's also the obligatory frat house, which sets up the amusing BFF relationship between studly Jenko and studly frat leader Zook (Wyatt Russell, who brings to mind a younger Owen Wilson.)

Jenko bonds easily with Zook, who lures him onto the football team, where Jenko succeeds dramatically. The two bond so well that Jenko and Schmidt have a sort of buddy-cop breakup. "Maybe we should, you know, investigate other people," Jenko tells a wounded Schmidt.

But the guys need to crack the drug case — money's running out, according to their supervising captain, Dickson, played by Ice Cube in a humorous performance that seethes all kinds of rage — professional, personal, you name it. And so, tracking down the villains, we eventually arrive in — of course, Mexico, for spring break! There, watch for a weirdly hilarious fistfight between Schmidt and one of the characters we've mentioned earlier.

It's one of the film's best scenes, but no scene in the film proper rivals the closing credits — a sendup of sequels which includes its own notable celebrity cameo and is alone worth the price of admission.



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Jonah Hill, from left, Ice Cube, and Channing Tatum in Columbia Pictures' "22 Jump Street."

Associated Press

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Chrissie Hynde a Pretender no more on 'Stockholm'

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Chrissie Hynde's new record, "Stockholm," is the first in her 35-year career without the Pretenders name on the cover.

But she says it's not so much a solo album — more a band that got away.

"Stockholm" was recorded in the city of its title with producer Bjorn Yttling — of Scandi-popsters Peter, Bjorn and John — and musicians including Joakim Ahlund of Swedish indie band Caesars. Hynde says they worked together as a band, and she harbored hope that the Scandinavians would leave "their wives and their bands and their studios to be in a band with me. But these guys have lives."

The singer from Akron, Ohio, who came to Britain in the 1970s and forged one of the most enduring acts of the post-punk era, pauses briefly. "I'm obviously losing my touch."

Don't count on it. "Stockholm," released Tuesday, is a confident album — slickly produced power pop with a strain of grit featuring a couple of surprising guest appearances. There's Hynde's friend



Chrissie Hynde poses for portraits at a north London recording studio, Tuesday, June 10, 2014, following the release of her first solo venture, entitled Stockholm, six years after the last Pretenders album. Associated Press

John McEnroe, swapping a tennis racket for a guitar to make a racket on "A Plan Too Far." And there's Neil Young, lending his unmistakable guitar wail to "Down the Wrong Way."

"We had a song that sounded like a Neil Young song, and we kept referring to it as 'The Neil Young Song.' And just to kind of (mess) with Bjorn I'd say, 'We could always get Neil on it,'" she recalled. "But I

didn't mean it, of course. ... But then the more I said it over the subsequent months, I thought, 'I actually could.'"

Hynde sounds like she's having fun on "Stockholm," which bears traces of both her punk roots and her even earlier love of 1960s rock and pop.

"My real musical background was from AM radio in America," she said. "All that psychedelic stuff that

your parents didn't know what they were talking about because it was all about acid trips and stuff. That's what I grew up on."

Hynde, 62, has had some wild times. She lost two founding members of the Pretenders to drug-related deaths in the 1980s. Now she's fit, vegetarian and an outspoken animal-rights activist. But she still yearns for the days when rock 'n' roll was dangerous.

"It is a dying breed," Hynde said. "The whole idea of it was you were living outside the law, it was anti-establishment."

"(Now) you're swept up in this congratulatory Grammy culture. ... When I see someone holding their little statue crying, I don't know where to look, I'm so embarrassed."

And yet the Pretenders were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2005. Hynde says she accepted mostly because her parents would have been "crushed" if she'd said no.

"But the truth is, it's made rock 'n' roll an establishment. It's turned it into an institution. Hynde is impatient with questions about her role as a female rock pioneer. She says being a woman never held her back in the macho music world.

She has always demanded equal treatment, and got it. She told her record company that she'd happily promote her new album in the media — with one exception.

"I'm not going to talk to fashion magazines. I said, 'If they won't have Lemmy' — Motorhead's gnarly frontman — 'don't ask me.'"



This Oct. 16, 2012 file photo shows author J.K. Rowling at an appearance to promote her latest book "The Casual Vacancy," at The David H. Koch Theater in New York.

Associated Press

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — "Harry Potter" creator J.K. Rowling waded into the world of Muggle politics Wednesday, announcing a 1 million pound (\$1.68 million) donation to the campaign

against Scottish independence.

Scots will vote in a Sept. 18 referendum on whether to leave their 300-year-old union with England and become an independent country.

Rowling, who lives in Ed-

JK Rowling comes out against Scottish independence

inburgh, said she had decided that "while independence might give us opportunities ... it also carries serious risks."

"The more I listen to the Yes campaign, the more I worry about its minimization and even denial of risks," she wrote on her website.

"This separation will not be quick and clean: it will take microsurgery to disentangle three centuries of close interdependence."

Rowling said she was particularly concerned about the impact on the economy and on funding for medical research in Scotland.

She has donated millions to the fight against multiple sclerosis, the disease that

killed her mother.

Rowling said the referendum would be a historic moment for Scotland. "I just hope with all my heart that we never have cause to look back and feel that we made a historically bad mistake."

Rowling, one of Britain's wealthiest writers, said she had made a "substantial donation" to the anti-independence "Better Together" campaign. Spokesman Mark Hutchinson confirmed the donation was 1 million pounds.

Polls show the anti-independence side narrowly ahead among Scottish voters, but pro-independence forces have run a better-funded and more energet-

ic campaign.

Many Scottish celebrities have declined to say how they will vote, though former James Bond star Sean Connery is a prominent independence supporter.

Rowling predicted that some pro-independence campaigners would discount her views because she was born and raised in England.

She likened that stance to the obsession with pure wizard blood of the villainous characters in her magical saga.

"When people try to make this debate about the purity of your lineage, things start getting a little Death Eaterish for my taste," she wrote.

The New Right



DAVID BROOKS

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Conservatives generally believe that capitalism is a machine that cures itself. Therefore, people on the right have been slow to recognize the deep structural problems that are making life harder in the new economy - that are leading to stagnant social mobility, widening inequality and pervasive insecurity.

But some conservatives have begun to face these issues head on. These reform conservatives have now published a policy-laden manifesto called "Room to Grow," which is the most coherent and compelling policy agenda the American right has produced this century.

In the first essay of the book, Peter Wehner moves beyond the ruinous Republican view that the country is divided between hearty entrepreneurs and parasitic "takers." Like most reform conservatives, he shifts attention sympathetically to the struggling working and middle classes.

He grapples with the fact, uncomfortable for conservatives, that the odds of escaping poverty are about half as high in the United States as in more mobile countries like Denmark.

Yuval Levin argues that conservatives have tacitly accepted the 20th-century welfare state; they just want less of it. To respond to the economy's structural woes, he continues, conservatives will have to change not only the size of the government but its nature. "The left's ideal approach," Levin writes, "is to put enormous faith in the knowledge of experts in the center and empower them to address the problem."

"The right's ideal approach, he continues, "is to put some modest faith in the knowledge of the people on the ground and empower them to try ways of addressing the problem incrementally."

Liberals emphasize individuals and the state, Levin argues. Conservatives should funnel resources to nurture the civic institutions in between. They should set up decentralized initiatives that rely on local knowledge and allow for a more dynamic process of experimentation.

The next 10 chapters contain a slew of proposals to decentralize the welfare state. Several writers support much larger family tax credits to empower families. James C. Capretta writes that households without access to employee health plans could be given a tax credit comparable in size to the tax subsidy given to families with these plans.

Frederick M. Hess suggests that parents should be given "course choice," the chance to not only choose their children's school but

to use a fraction of school funding to purchase access to specialized programs, in, say, math or science. Scott Winship mentions the universal credit, which consolidates a variety of anti-poverty programs and distributes benefits to families as a single amount.

Under these and other proposals, the government would address middle-class economic security by devolving power down to households and local governments. This is both to the left of the current Tea Party agenda (more public activism) and also to the right (more fundamental reform). The agenda is a great start but underestimates a few realities. First, the authors underestimate the consequences of declining social capital.

Today, millions of Americans are behaving in ways that make no economic sense: dropping out of school, having children out of wedlock. They do so because the social guardrails that used to guide behavior have dissolved. Giving people in these circumstances tax credits is not going to lead to long-term thinking. Putting more risk into vulnerable people's lives may not make them happier. The nanny state may have drained civil society, but simply removing the nanny state will not restore it. There have to be programs that encourage local paternalism: early education programs with wraparound services to reinforce parenting skills, social entrepreneurship funds to reweave community, paternalistic welfare rules to encourage work. Second, conservatives should not be naïve about sin. We are moving from a world dominated by big cross-class organizations, like public bureaucracies, corporations and unions, toward a world dominated by clusters of networked power. These clusters - Wall Street, Washington, big agriculture, big energy, big universities - are dominated by interlocking elites who create self-serving arrangements for themselves. Society is split between those bred into these networks and those who are not.

Moreover, the U.S. economy is increasingly competing against autocratic economies, which play by their own self-serving rules. Sometimes government is going to have to be active to disrupt local oligarchies and global autocracies by fomenting creative destruction - by insisting on dynamic immigration policies, by pumping money into research, by creating urban environments that nurture innovation, by spending money to give those outside the clusters new paths to rise.

I'd say the reform conservatives are still a little too Jeffersonian. They have a bit too much faith in the magic of decentralization. Some decentralized reforms do nurture personal responsibility and community flourishing. But as Alexander Hamilton (and Margaret Thatcher) understood, sometimes decentralization needs to be complemented with energetic national policies, to disrupt local oligarchies, self-serving arrangements and gradual national decline. □



Religious Constriction In America

CHARLES M. BLOW
© 2014 New York Times

I am both shocked and fascinated by Americans' religious literalism.

One Gallup report issued last week found that 42 percent of Americans believe "God created humans in their present form 10,000 years ago."

Even among people who said that they were "very familiar" with the theory of evolution, a third still believed that God created humans in their present form 10,000 years ago.

It's not clear what the respondents meant by being "very familiar" - did they fully understand the science upon which evolution's based, or was their understanding something short of that, as in, very familiar with it as being antithetical to creationist concepts?

Whatever the case, on this issue as well as many others in America, the truth is not the light.

That is in part because, compared with other developed countries, America stands out for the level and intensity of its religiosity. People are generally more likely to say that religion is an important part of their daily lives in relatively poor countries, but as Gallup pointed out in a 2010 report:

"The United States is one of the

rich countries that bucks the trend. About two-thirds of Americans - 65 percent - say religion is important in their daily lives.

Among high-income countries, only Italians, Greeks, Singaporeans and residents of the oil-rich Persian Gulf states are more likely to say religion is important. Most high-income countries are further down the religiosity spectrum."

And, in America, when people say they are religious, they overwhelmingly mean Christian. In fact, nearly eight in 10 Americans identify as Christians.

It's not only that Americans are more religious - Christian, in particular - but that for many, their beliefs in their religious text - the Bible, in particular - are literal.

As Gallup pointed out in a report issued Wednesday, nearly a third of Americans continue to believe that the Bible "is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word."

Furthermore, nearly half believe that it is "the inspired word of God but not everything in it should be taken literally."

(I am curious which parts would get a pass from most of these respondents and which wouldn't. Would the origins of the world fall into the literal camp?)

What about the rules - all or some - in books like Deuteronomy?) About a fifth of Americans said they believe the Bible is "an ancient book of fables, legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by man."

Now, I don't seek to deny anyone the right to believe as he or she chooses.

I have at points in my own life been quite religious, and my own children have complicated views about religion.

As my oldest son once told me, "I'd hate to live in a world where a God couldn't exist."

That is his choice, as it is every individual's choice, and I respect it. What worries me is that some Americans seem to live in a world where facts can't exist.

Facts such as the idea that the world is ancient, and that all living things evolved and some - like dinosaurs - became extinct. Facts like the proven warming of the world.

Facts like the very real possibility that such warming could cause a catastrophic sea-level rise.

How does America remain a world leader in an increasingly technological, science-based world, when so many of our citizens - and even our leaders, including Republicans who might run for president - deny basic science?

Marco Rubio told GQ in 2012: "Whether the Earth was created in seven days, or seven actual eras, I'm not sure we'll ever be able to answer that."

It's one of the great mysteries." During a debate in 2007, Mike Huckabee made clear that he believed that "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth," but didn't know when it was done or how long it took.

Bobby Jindal has voiced his support of creationism being taught in public schools alongside intelligent design and "the best science" and allowing students to "make up their own minds."

Americans, particularly political leaders, who choose religious piety must also create an intellectual framework in which things of faith that exist without proof can make space for truths for which there is proof.

Religious fundamentalism at the expense of basic scientific facts threatens to obscure America's beacon of light with a bank of fog. □

China's startups hope for boom after Alibaba IPO

JACK CHANG
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Nils Pihl has spent 18 months building what he calls cutting-edge software to crunch "really big data sets." But instead of going to Silicon Valley, the 27-year-old Swede and his four colleagues have been working on his invention from a small apart-

online bazaar. More recently, use of smartphones and the mobile Internet has grown explosively, creating new opportunities for e-commerce and other tech ventures.

"We find this to be like the best incubator you could get," Pihl said in his building's courtyard, where children chased each other

way for 11 IPOs in the first three months of 2014, just one short of the number in the U.S. during that time, according to accounting firm PwC. Analysts were expecting as many as 400 Chinese IPOs this year, but confusing new regulations issued by the government have again held back offerings.

Source. That was far short of the nearly \$10 billion raised in the U.S. during the same period, but enough to rank China ahead of Europe in venture capital. Behind the numbers are China's vast market of more than a billion people and the eagerness of Chinese consumers to adopt innovations such as shop-

the fledgling industry by giving Chinese and foreign tech companies a 15 percent break on income taxes.

For some foreigners, those factors and an abundance of venture capital cash outweighed the country's negatives such as air pollution in many cities and the hard-to-learn language.

Entrepreneurs such as Substantial Games co-founder Pin Wang have built their companies here even if they don't plan on selling their products in the country.

Born in China but raised in Canada, Wang moved to Beijing five years ago and started his company in a small office, where he and his mostly foreign staff fine-tuned their tablet-based game, Ember Conflict, with a \$320,000 investment from Shanghai-based investors.

"There was a stigma around doing a startup in China around three to five years ago for sure," the 28-year-old said. Getting a job at Google was considered more prestigious but "now Chinese are saying: Oh, I can see why, it's a chance to get rich."

Marketing 360 CEO Terry Ding said he made that leap and mounted a 20-person, all-Chinese team with some \$1 million in investment to build a software platform for marketing companies.

Still, the Chinese startup world still has a lot of growing up to do, said Ding.

He expects to sell his company for \$6 million at most, a humble sum by Silicon Valley standards, because Chinese and global markets still undervalue business support services such as his, especially those designed in Chinese that require translation to sell overseas.

"The Chinese aren't ready to support this kind of innovation — software, behind the scenes," Ding said. "But it will definitely change."

"I think people will start to trust that China's development and its startup companies can make some remarkable things happen." □



Nils Pihl stands in front of his company logo on the wall at his apartment, which he converted to an office in Beijing, China.
(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

ment overlooking smoggy northwest Beijing.

In typical startup fashion, they've raised hundreds of thousands of dollars after countless pitch meetings and were racing to prepare their product for launch. Their investors are in Beijing as well as the U.S. China might seem an odd choice for young tech entrepreneurs. Instead of innovation and risk taking, the country is more associated with state domination of the economy, rampant intellectual property theft and heavy duty government censorship of social media.

Perceptions, however, are changing. The high profile success of Jack Ma's e-commerce company Alibaba, which is planning a giant initial public offering in the U.S. this year, has drawn attention to how the former startup outmaneuvered eBay in China to become the world's biggest

and couples took twilight strolls. "We don't consider ourselves a Chinese startup. We're a Valley startup hanging out in Beijing to keep our costs low."

Alibaba and a handful of other online ventures are the most visible examples of companies that began with a startup ethos and thrived despite bumps along the way. Perhaps the biggest challenge for startups came three years ago when several Chinese companies were caught in accounting scandals and forced off U.S. stock exchanges. Such problems pushed Chinese regulators to halt all IPOs in China, another blow to the startup scene since going public is a common way for ambitious companies to raise additional funds after being nurtured by venture capital and other early investors.

Regulators lifted the ban earlier this year, making

Still, Chinese companies such as No. 2 e-commerce site JD.com have listed in the U.S. this year, and entrepreneurs and investors in China are expecting a flood of investment.

"If Alibaba goes public at say \$150 billion to \$180 billion and they continue to grow at 30 percent a year, in five years this could be the largest company in the world" by market capitalization, said Richard Hsu, managing director of Intel Capital China at a recent startup forum in Beijing. "And if the largest market cap in the world is now a Chinese company involved in e-commerce, how much attention is the rest of China going to get?"

Budding Chinese firms of all types raised more than \$1 billion in venture capital in the first quarter, a 35 percent jump over the same period last year, according to Dow Jones Venture-

ping via smartphone and the latest social media. Chinese firm iResearch forecasts mobile phone games alone to bring in \$11 billion a year in revenue in 2017, triple the current amount.

"There's definitely a critical mass of talent that has been nurtured in the past 15 years by the mobile phone and the Internet," said Alan Guo, CEO of Chinese e-commerce company LightInTheBox, which went public on the New York Stock Exchange in June 2013. "We have a new generation of Chinese who are global."

Other draws for startups include the country's lower salaries. According to the online job site Glassdoor, average pay offered in software engineer job postings in Beijing was a quarter that for similar positions in San Francisco.

The Beijing city government also tries to support